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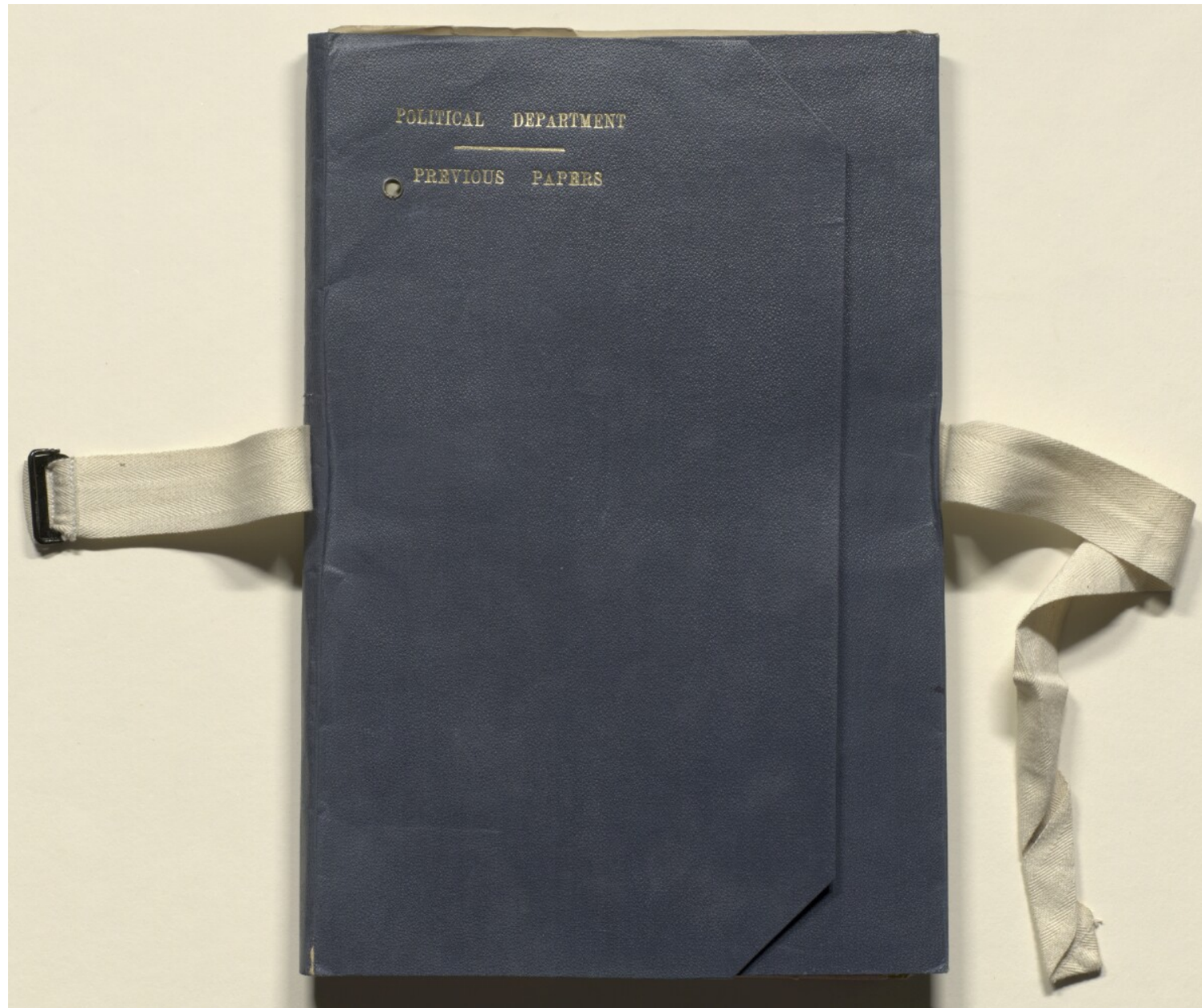
<b>Reference</b>	IOR/L/PS/12/2212
<b>Title</b>	Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Koweit [Kuwait] into Iraq'
<b>Date(s)</b>	7 Dec 1936-23 Mar 1939 (CE, Gregorian)
<b>Written in</b>	English in Latin
<b>Extent and Format</b>	1 file (117 folios)
<b>Holding Institution</b>	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
<b>Copyright for document</b>	<u>Unknown</u>

#### About this record

Correspondence regarding allegations made by the Iraqi authorities that arms and ammunition are being smuggled into Iraq from Koweit [Kuwait]. The principal correspondents are: HM Ambassador at Baghdad (Archibald Clark Kerr, later Maurice Peterson); the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf (Trenchard Craven Fowle); the Political Agent, Kuwait (Captain Gerald de Gaury); the Secretary of State for India; and the Government of India External Affairs Department.

The correspondence discusses the following: visits made by the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs (Naji al Asil, and later Taufiz Suwaidi) to Kuwait in 1936 and 1939, to discuss the alleged smuggling and possible measures to be adopted by Kuwait; reports of alleged smuggling incidents; reports made by the Political Agent, Kuwait, that Saudi Arabs are smuggling arms through Kuwaiti territory; reports on the general increase of arms being smuggled from the Red Sea coast; a suggestion by the Iraqi Foreign Minister that Iraq and Kuwait could form a customs union, or adopt combined preventive operations, in order to curtail the smuggling; requests made by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf that the Iraqi Government present evidence to substantiate their claims; and reports on the smuggling of firearms to Palestine through Akaba [Al 'Aqabah].

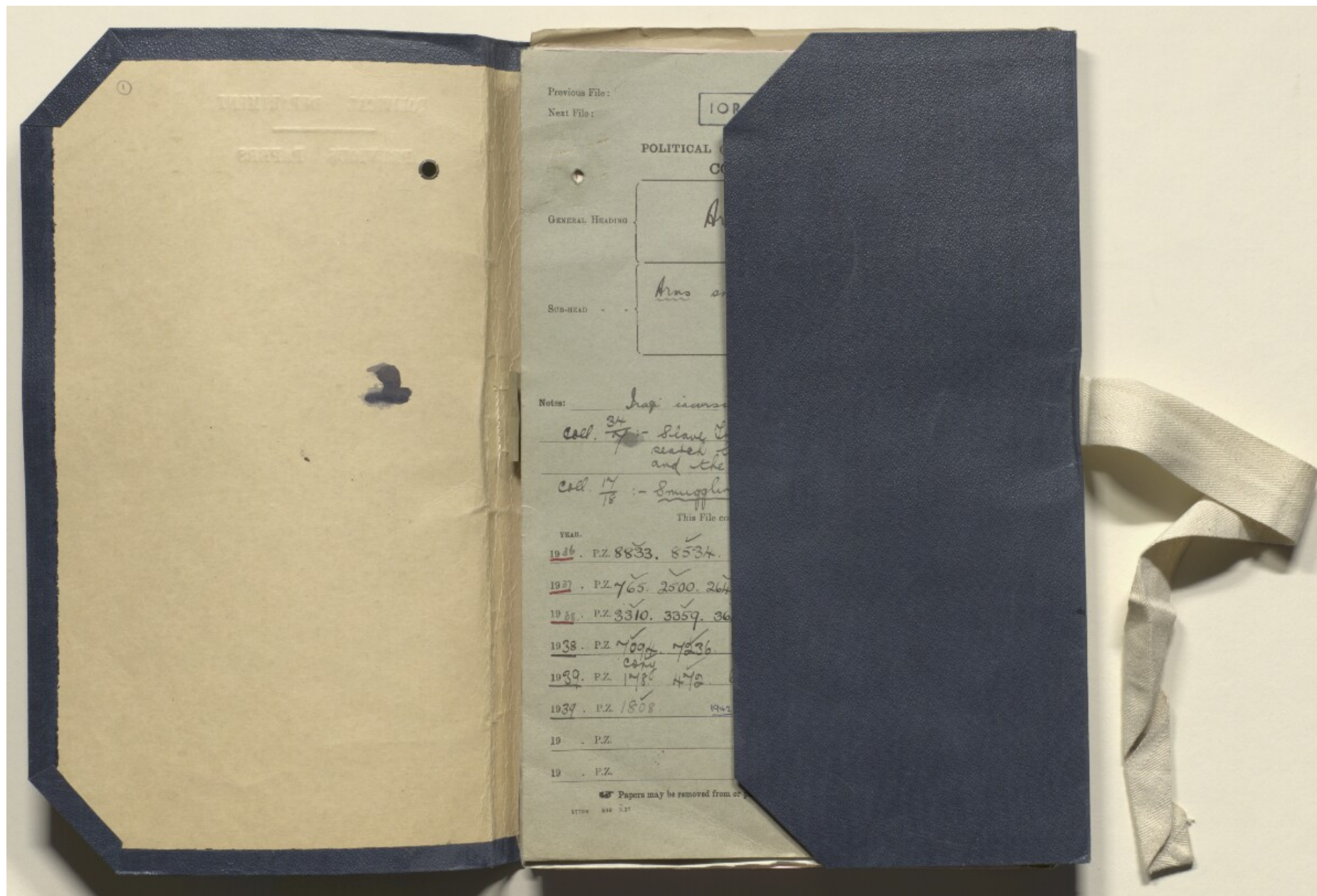
The file includes a divider which gives a list of correspondence references contained in the file by year. This is placed at the end of the correspondence (folio 2).





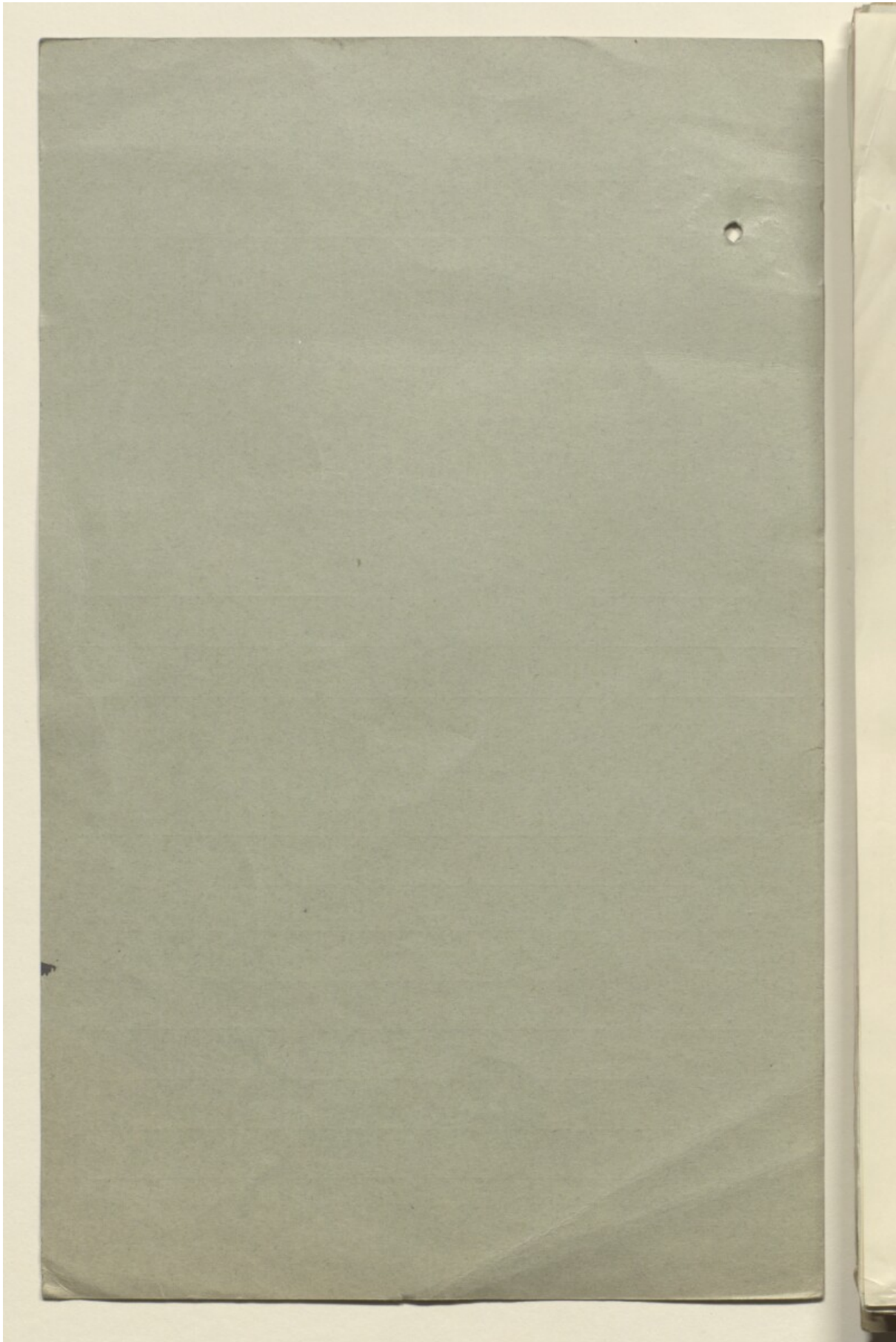


Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Koweit [Kuwait] into Iraq' [front-i] (2/237)

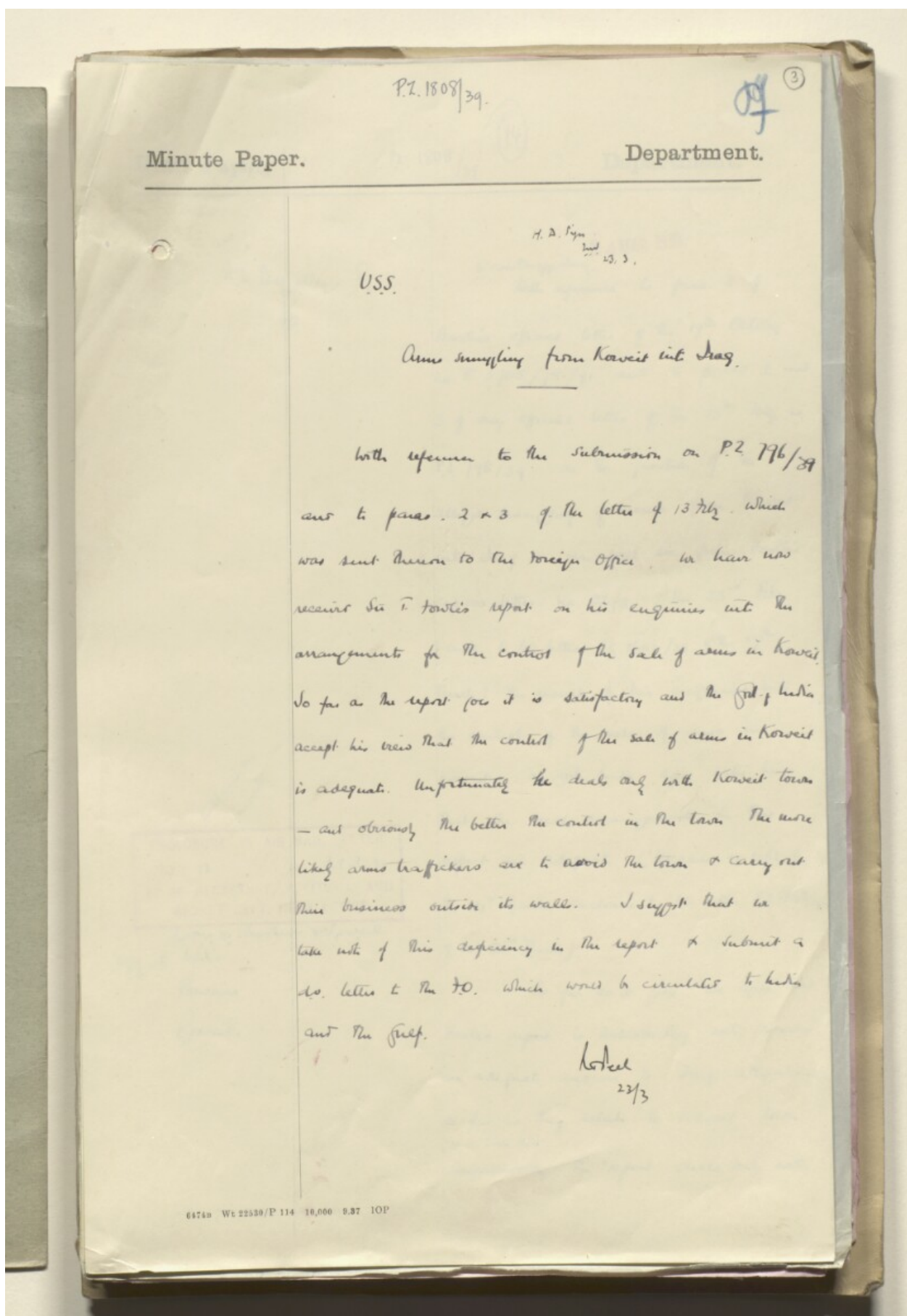












Minute Paper.

Department.

P.Z. 1808/39.

3

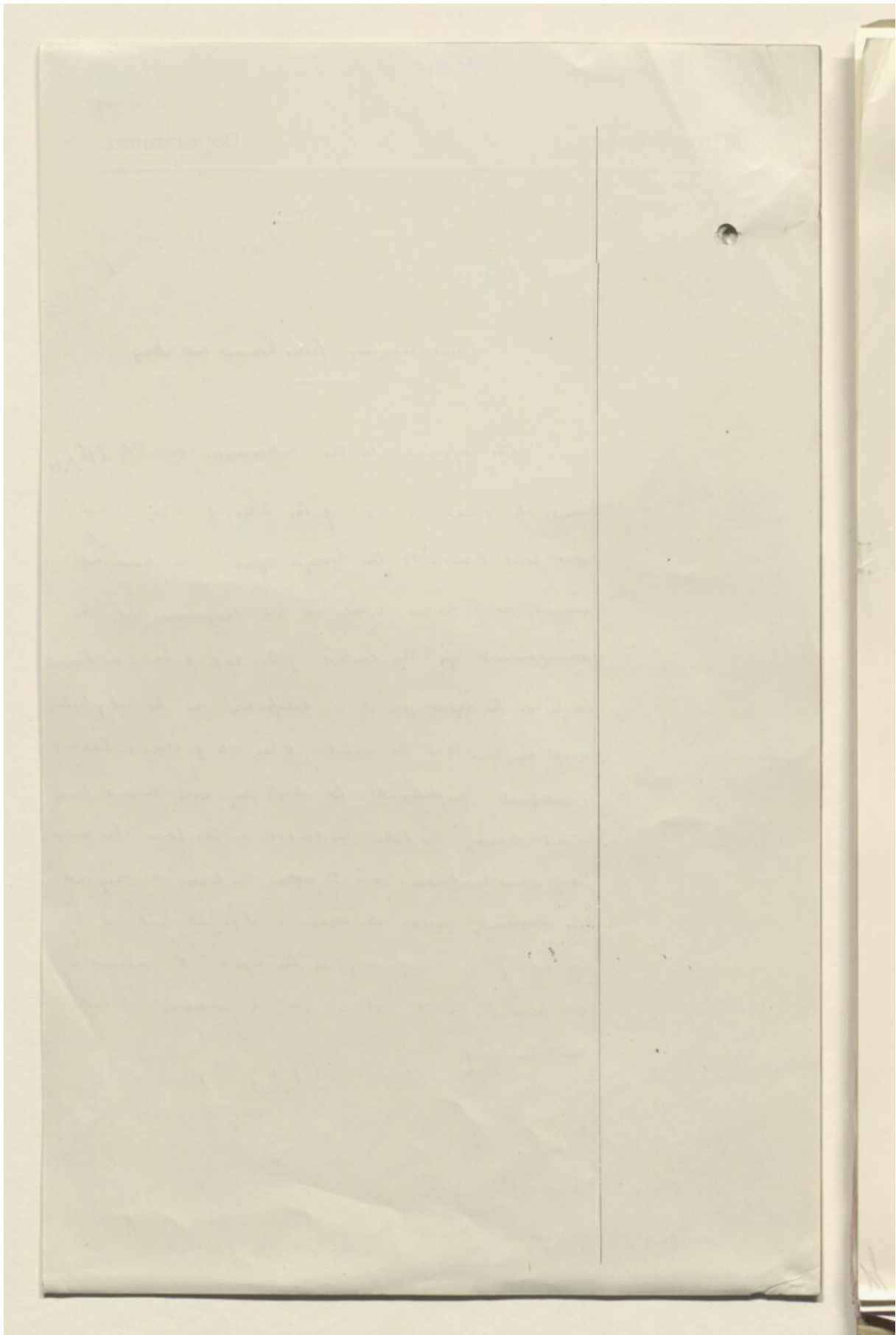
H. D. Fyfe  
23/3

U.S.S.

Arms smuggling from Koweit into Iraq.

With reference to the submission on P.Z. 176/39  
and to paras. 2 & 3 of the letter of 13 Feb. which  
was sent thereon to the Foreign Office. We have now  
received Sir T. Fowler's report on his enquiries into the  
arrangements for the control of the sale of arms in Koweit.  
So far as the report goes it is satisfactory and the Govt. of India  
accept his view that the control of the sale of arms in Koweit  
is adequate. Unfortunately he deals only with Koweit towns  
— and obviously the better the control in the towns the more  
likely arms traffickers are to avoid the towns & carry out  
their business outside its walls. I suggest that we  
take note of this deficiency in the report & submit a  
do. letter to the F.O. which would be circulated to India  
and the Govt.

H. D. Fyfe  
23/3



Department.

24 MAR 1959

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arrangements in the town of Koweit  
and does not of itself eliminate  
the possibility that a traffic in  
arms may be carried on in the  
villages or elsewhere in Koweit  
territory. We feel however that Your  
cannot fairly be asked to pursue his  
enquiries further until the Iraqi  
Govt. have produced the evidence in  
support of their allegations of arms  
smuggling from Koweit which (vide para.  
2 of my official letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.)  
he has urged that they should be asked  
to supply.

Yours sincerely  
(Sb) R. PEEL



**FILE COPY** *425 17/18* <sup>(2)</sup> **SECRET** <sup>(5)</sup>

*1603*  
*752*

**P.Z.**  
**1808**

*FO 21/3*  
*m9*

**INDEXED**

Allotted to Political Department **1939** (31 groups.) 1169.

Copies circulated.

DECYPHER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, External Affairs Department, to Secretary of State for India.

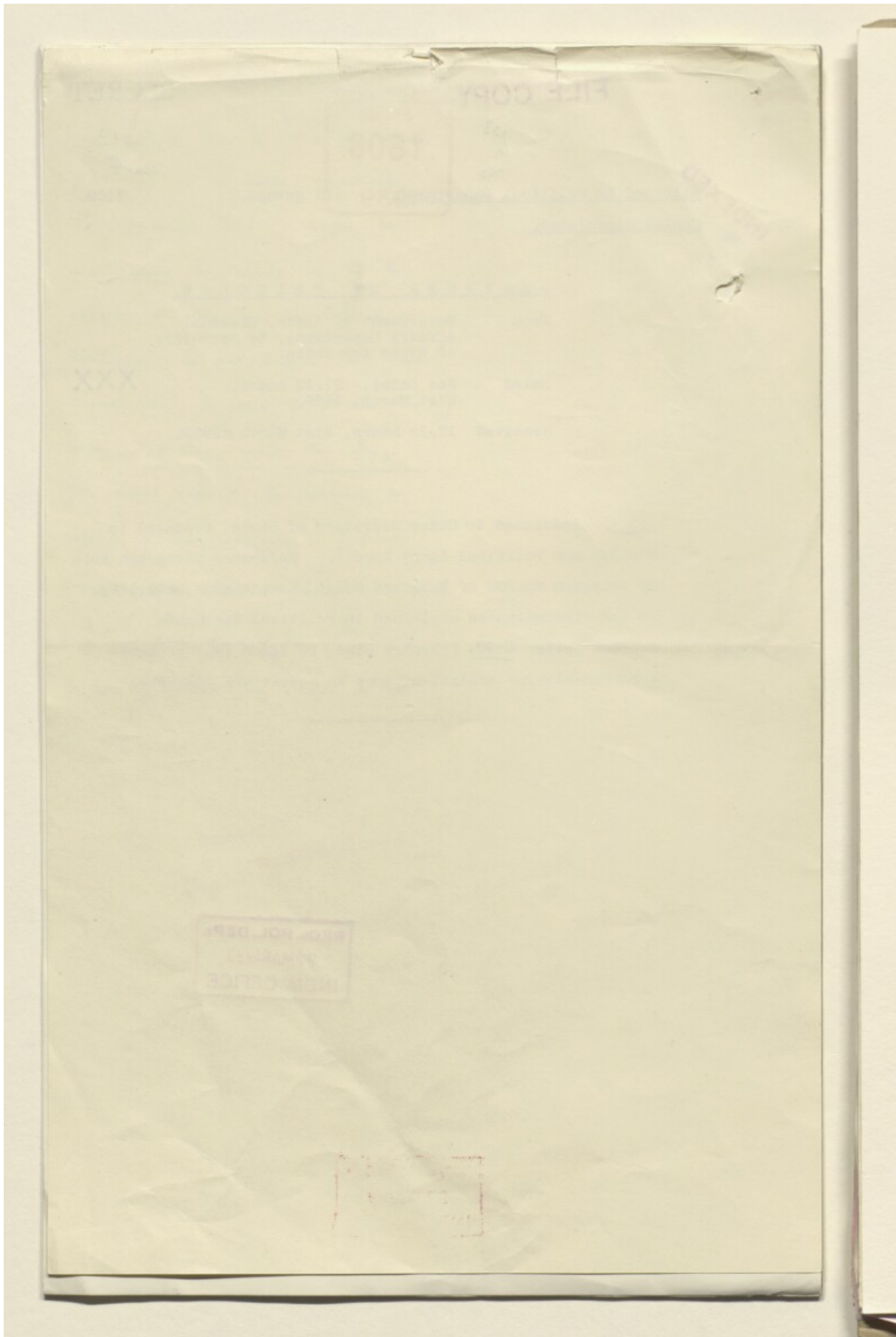
Dated New Delhi, 21.10 hours, 21st March, 1939. **XXX**

Received 17.15 hours, 21st March, 1939.

*752*  
*1602*

462. Addressed to Under Secretary of State, repeated to Bushire and Political Agent Koweit. Reference paragraph No. 4 my telegram No. 203 of February 2nd. Koweit arms smuggling. In the circumstances explained in Political Resident's express letter C-98, February 23rd, we agree that present arrangements for control of arms in Koweit are adequate.

**RECd. POL. DEPT.**  
**22 MAR 1939**  
**INDIA OFFICE**



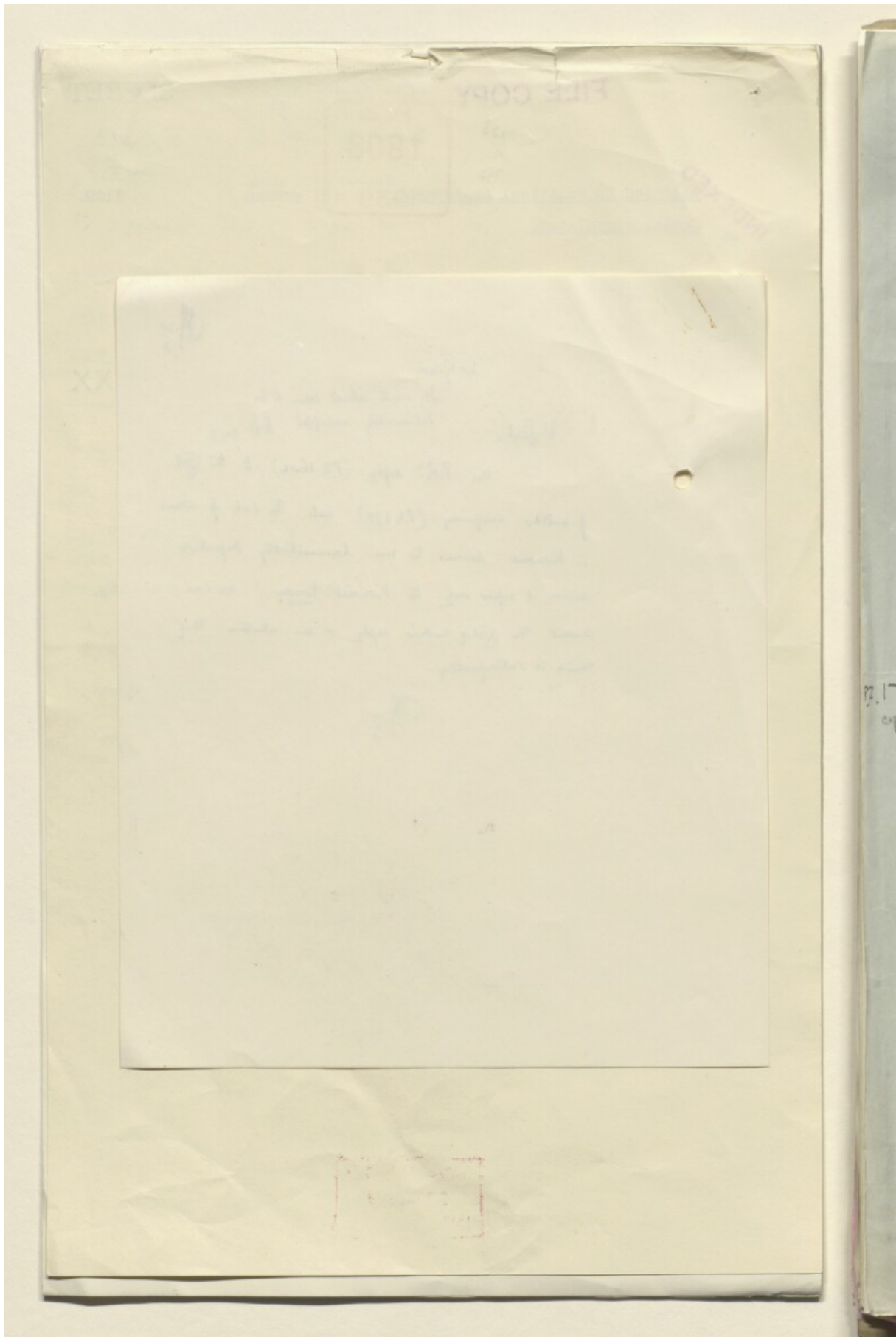




⑥  
11/20/3

Mr. Gibson  
It would almost seem to be  
deliberately withheld. At 20/3  
V. Leet,  
The P.R. reply (P.2.1602) to the Gov.  
of India's enquiry (P.2.178) into the sale of arms  
in Koweit seems to me lamentably defective  
since it refers only to Koweit town. We can  
await the Govt of India's reply & see whether they  
think it satisfactory.

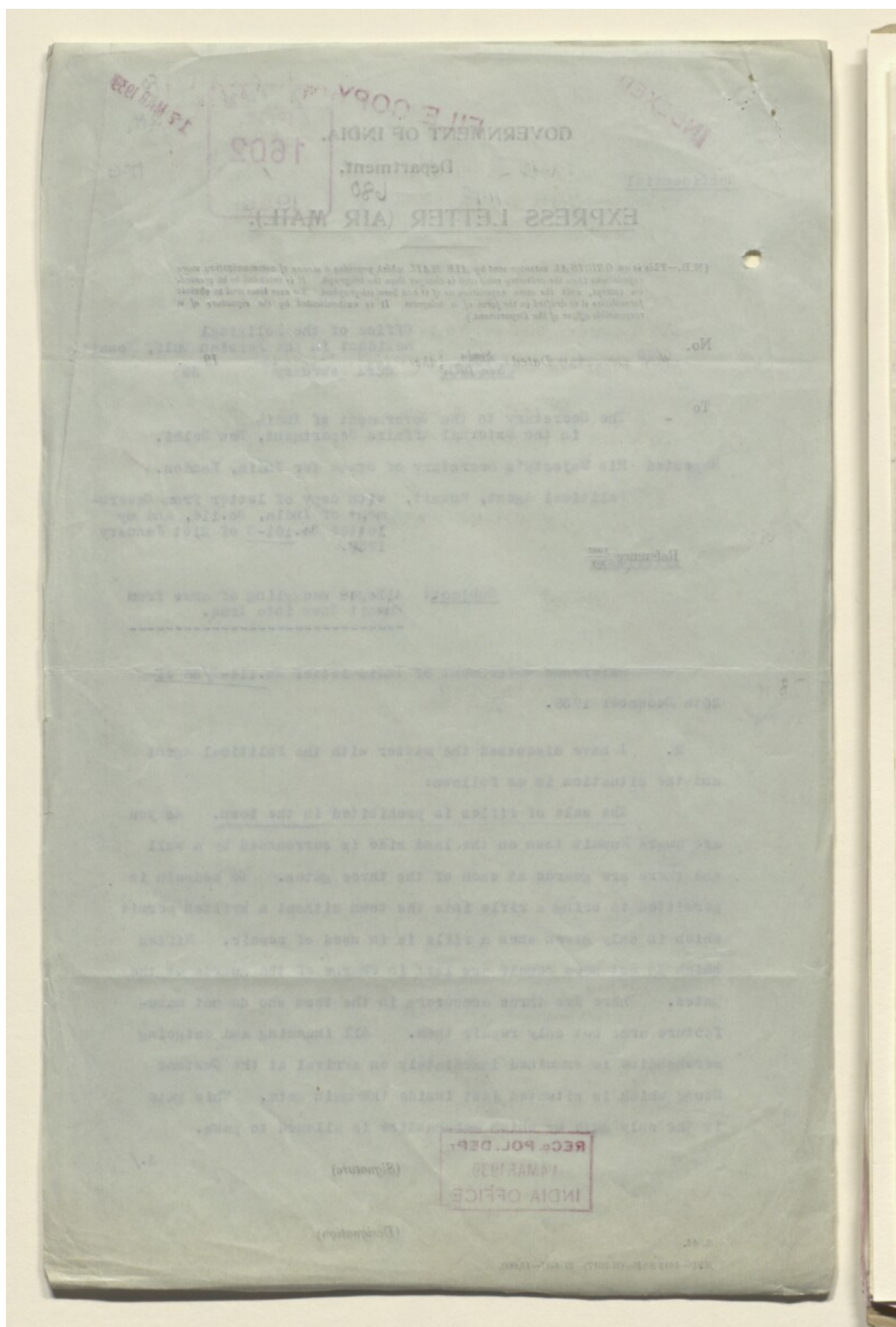
11/15/3





**INDEXED** (5) **FILE COPY** 7/42  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.** 1602  
**Department.** 1939  
**EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).** 17 MAR 1939  
**Confidential** 1190 680  
[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]  
No. 9/98 Office of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait.  
Dated ~~New Delhi~~, the 23rd February 1939  
To - The Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, New Delhi.  
Repeated His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London. ✓  
Political Agent, Kuwait, with copy of letter from Government of India, No. 114, and my letter No. 101-S of 21st January 1939.  
Reference your ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Subject: Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait Town into Iraq.  
Reference Government of India letter No. 114-S/38 of 20th December 1938.  
2. I have discussed the matter with the Political Agent and the situation is as follows:  
The sale of rifles is prohibited in the town. As you are aware Kuwait town on the land side is surrounded by a wall and there are guards at each of the three gates. No bedouin is permitted to bring a rifle into the town without a written permit which is only given when a rifle is in need of repair. Rifles which do not need repair are left in charge of the guards at the gates. There are three armourers in the town who do not manufacture arms but only repair them. All incoming and outgoing merchandise is examined immediately on arrival at the Customs House which is situated just inside the main gate. This gate is the only gate by which merchandise is allowed to pass.  
REC'D. POL. DEP.  
14 MAR 1939  
INDIA OFFICE  
(Signature) 3./  
(Designation)  
S. 44.  
MFP-1613 S&P-(M-2617)-21-4-37-15,000.







-2-

FILE COPY

1602

1939

(8)

3. I have no doubt, as stated in paragraph 3 of my demi-official letter No.648-B of 29th November 1938, that <sup>x</sup>Edmonds was perfectly correct in saying that an odd rifle can now and then be picked up in Kuwait, but it will be seen in the circumstances explained above that his statement that Kuwait is a recognized market for arms smuggling into Iraq is entirely incorrect.

4. The control of arms in Kuwait is adequate, and I have no suggestions to offer under this head.

Ed. T.C.FOWLE

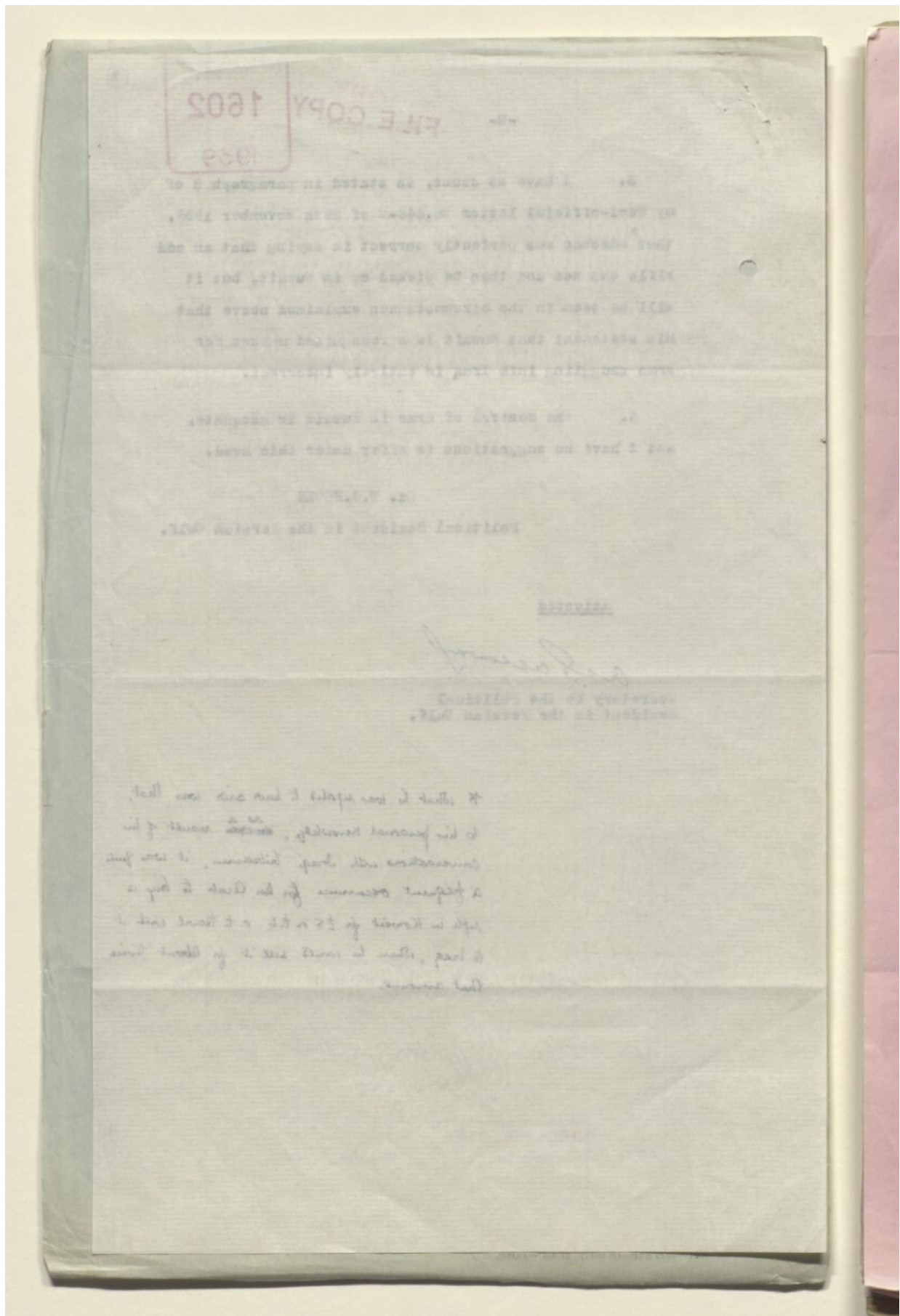
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Attested

Secretary to the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.

\* What he was reported to have said was that, to his personal knowledge, ~~as a~~ <sup>as a</sup> result of his conversations with Iraqi tribesmen, it was quite a frequent occurrence for an Arab to buy a rifle in Kuwait for £5 or £6 & to travel with it to Iraq, where he would sell it for about twice that amount.







**INDEXED**

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. C/105 of 1939.

**FILE COPY 1603**

7/42

1602

17 MAR 1939

Fo/

A.M.

N.G.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCIE., CSI., MVO.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,  
External Affairs Department, New Delhi.
- ✓ 2. R.T. Peel Esquire, M.C.,  
The India Office, London.
3. G. de Gaury Esquire, MC,  
Political Agent, Kuwait,

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned documents (s).

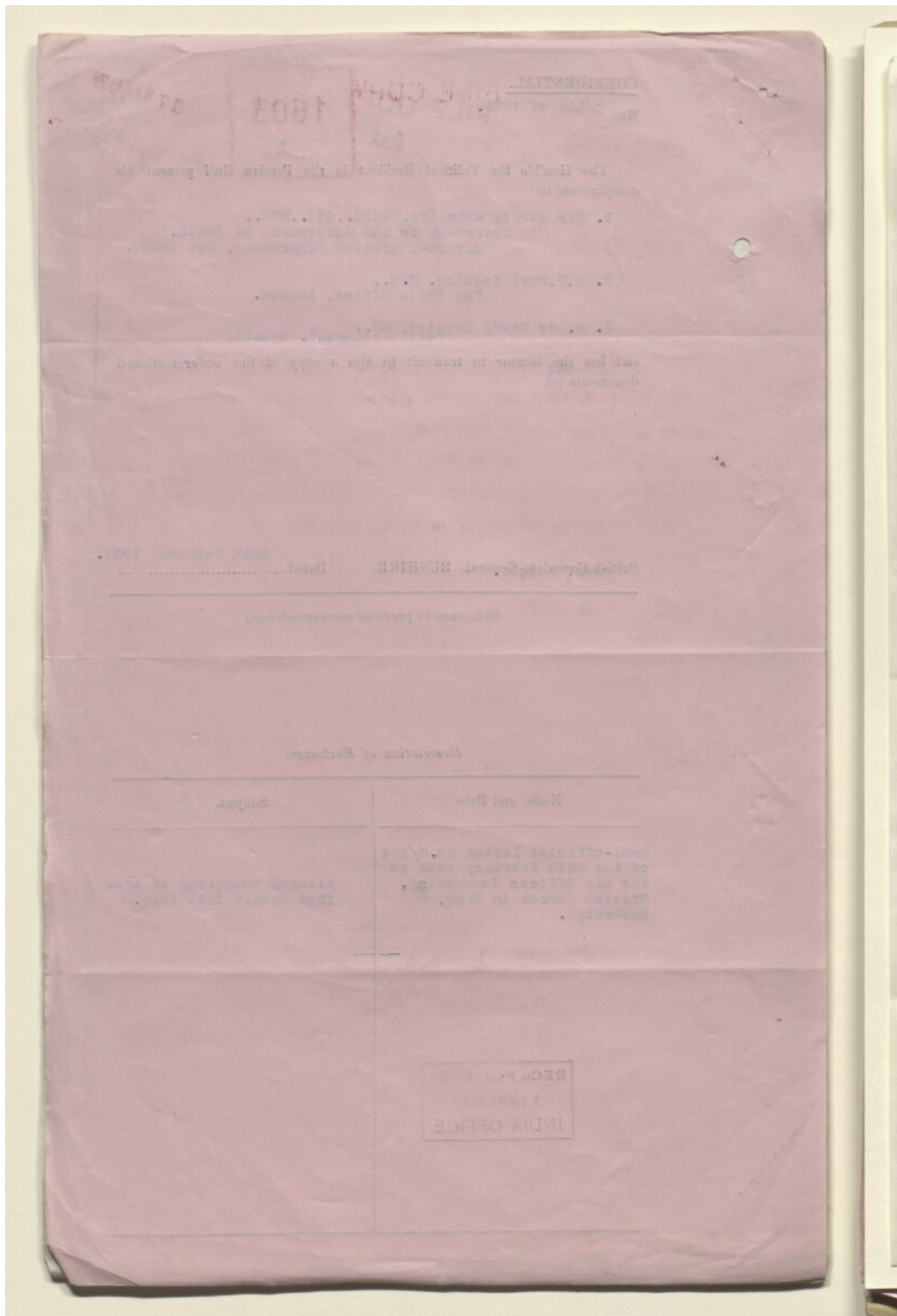
British Consulate General, BUSHIRE. Dated 26th February 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence :

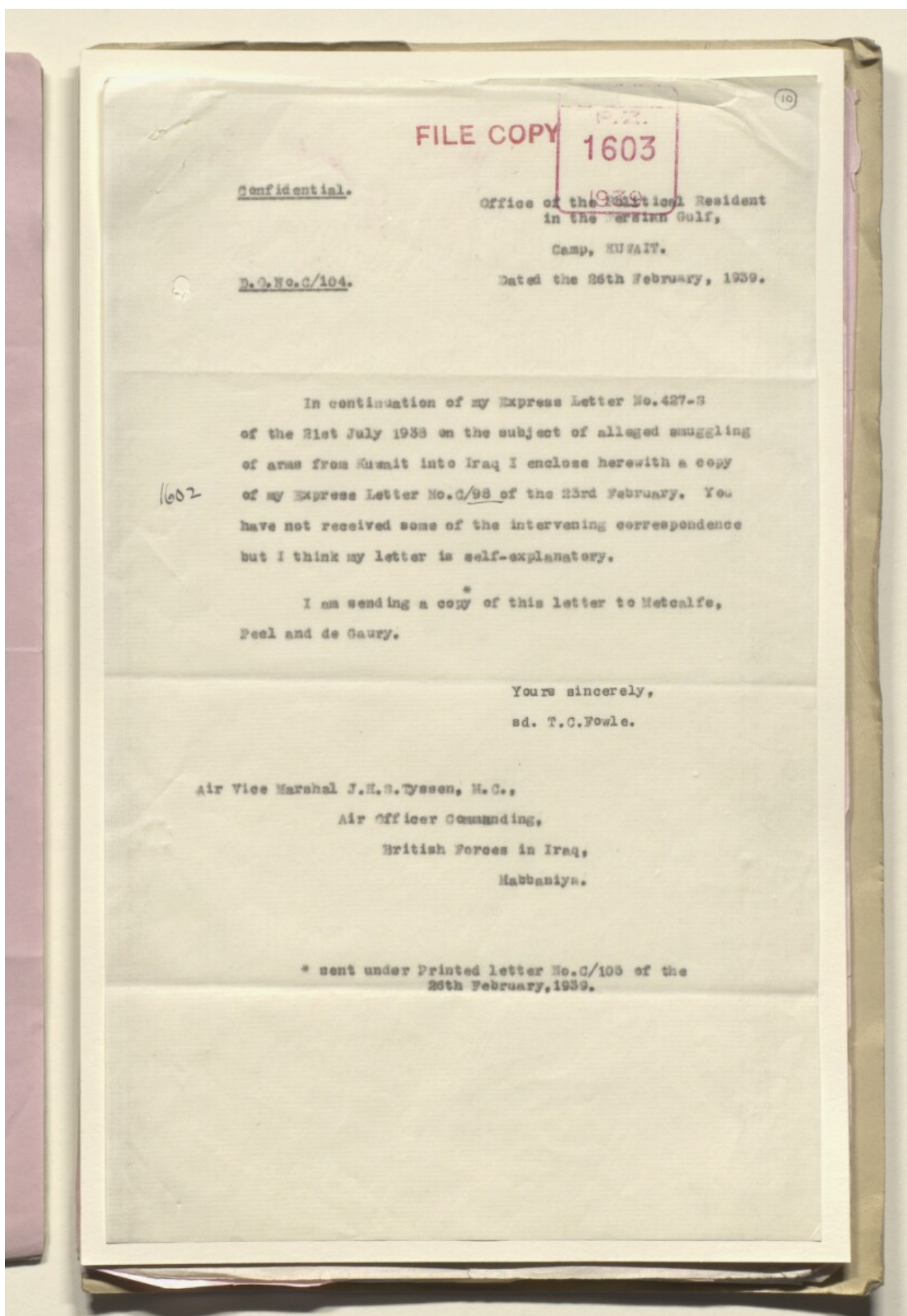
**DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.**

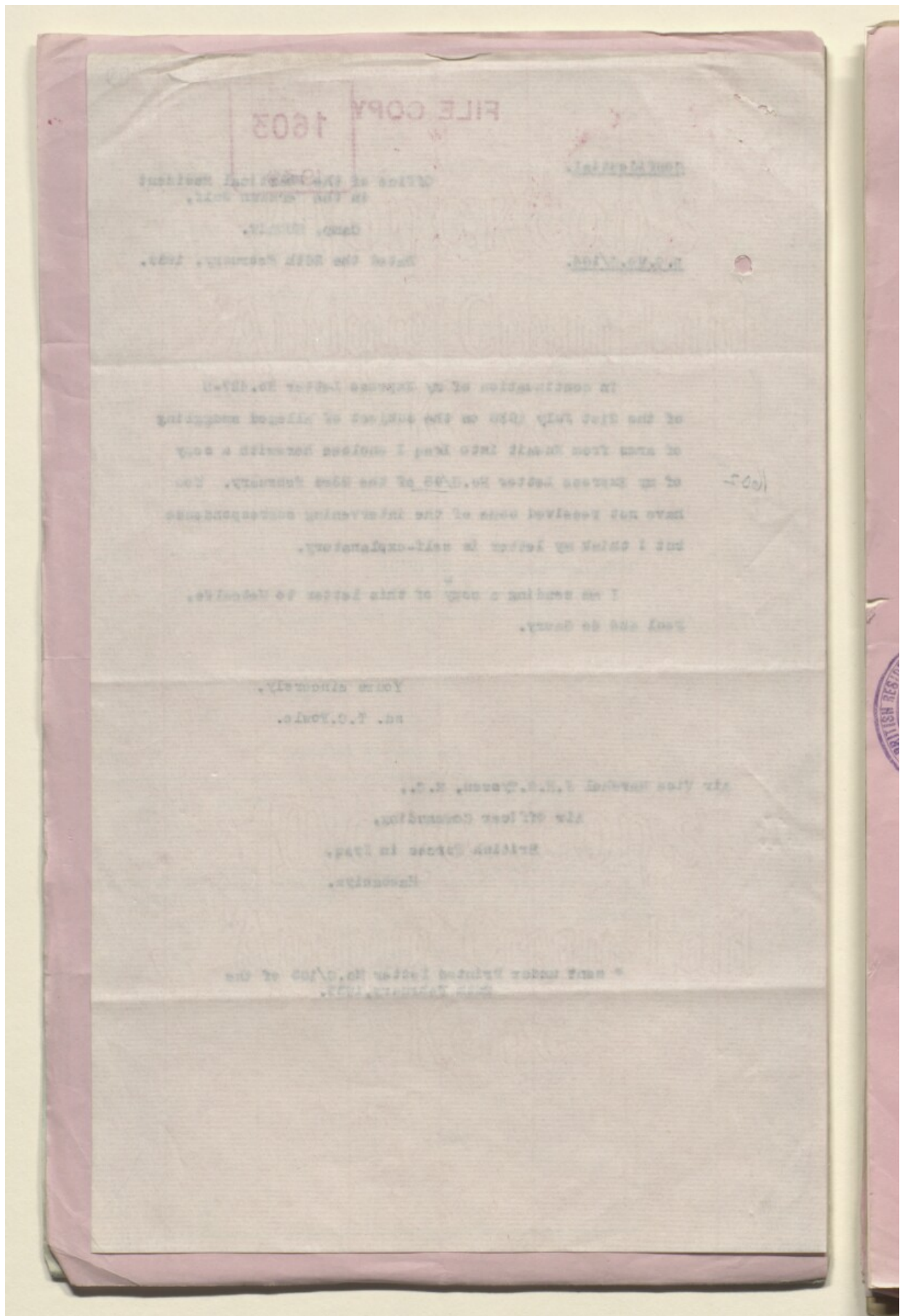
Name and Date	Subject.
Demi-official letter No.C/104 of the 26th February 1939 to the Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq, Habbaniya.	Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

**RECd. POL. DEP.**  
14 MAR 1939  
**INDIA OFFICE**













**FILE COPY**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
No. **6/51** *4/10 - xTV 470* **1190** *28 FEB 1939* *9.11.* *N.E.* *11*

**INDEXED** *(5)*

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his *N. Henry* compliments to

1. R.T. Peel, Esquire, M.C.  
The India Office,  
London. ✓
2. Air Vice Marshal J.H.S. Tyssen, M.C.  
Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in IRAQ,  
Habbaniya. *78*
3. H. Weightman, Esquire, I.C.S.  
Political Agent, Bahrain. *5*

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned documents (s).

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. *Camp Bahrain* Dated **16th February 1939.**

Reference to previous correspondence :

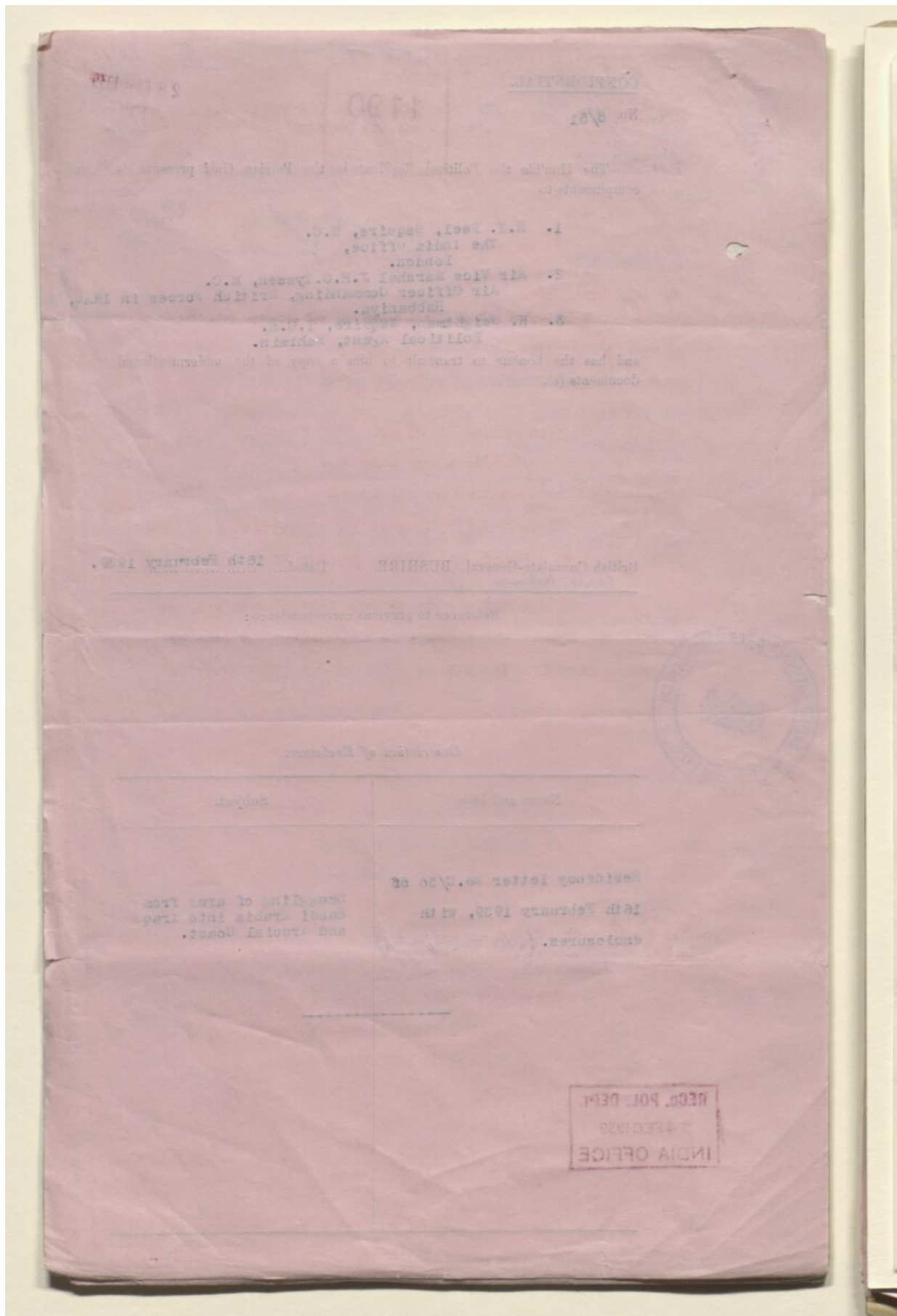
**BRITISH RESIDENCY & CONSULATE-GENERAL  
BUSHIRE**

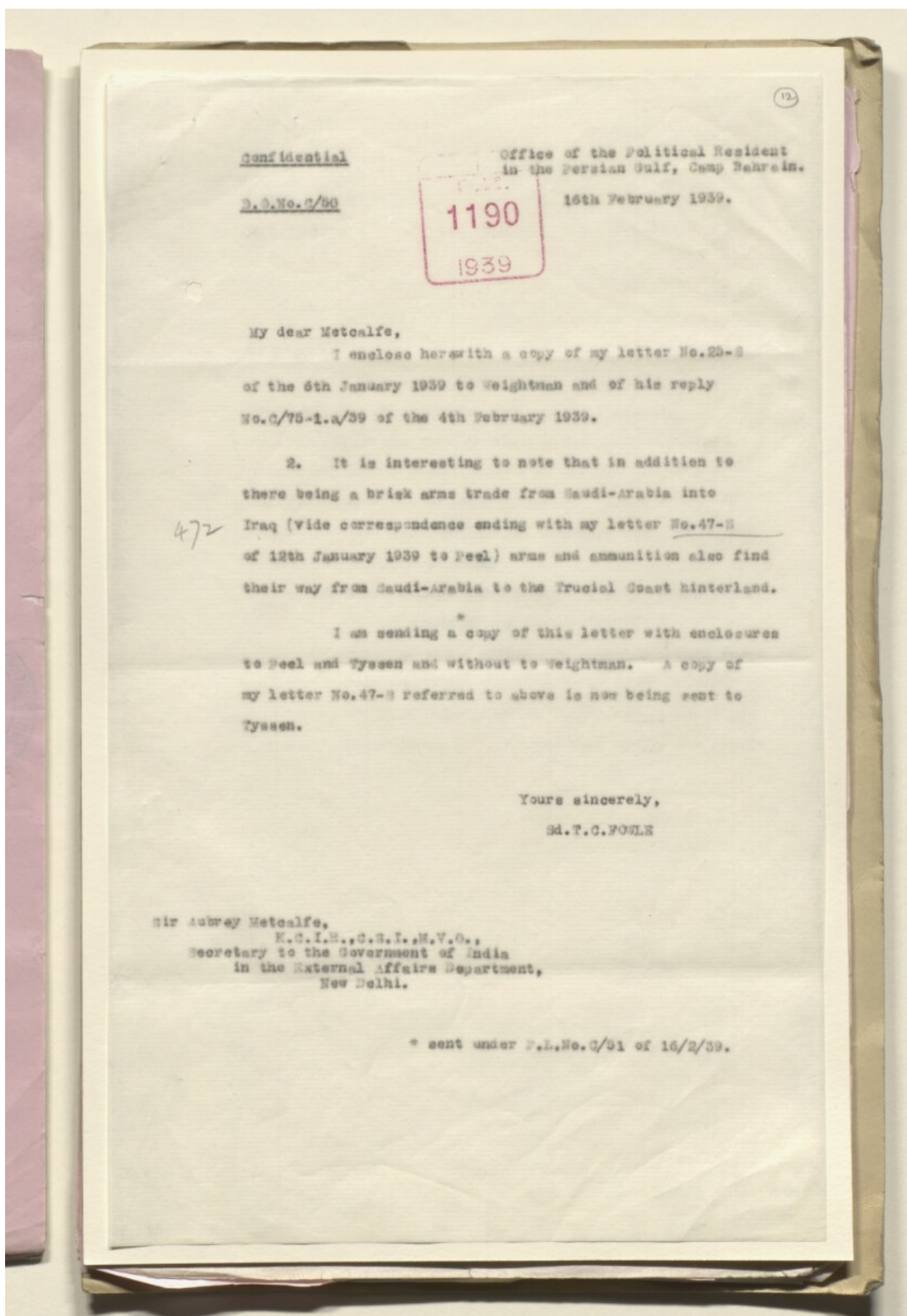
*Description of Enclosure.*

Name and Date	Subject.
Residency letter No.C/50 of 16th February 1939, with enclosures. <i>(one copy only)</i>	Smuggling of arms from Saudi Arabia into Iraq and Trucial Coast.

**REGD. POL. DEPT.**  
**24 FEB 1939**  
**INDIA OFFICE**







confidential

B.O.No. 5/39

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf, Camp Bahrain.

16th February 1939.

1190

1939

My dear Metcalfe,

I enclose herewith a copy of my letter No.23-B of the 6th January 1939 to Weightman and of his reply No.C/75-1.a/39 of the 4th February 1939.

2. It is interesting to note that in addition to there being a brisk arms trade from Saudi-Arabia into Iraq (vide correspondence ending with my letter No.47-B of 12th January 1939 to Peel) arms and ammunition also find their way from Saudi-Arabia to the Trucial Coast hinterland.

I am sending a copy of this letter with enclosures to Peel and Tyssen and without to Weightman. A copy of my letter No.47-B referred to above is now being sent to Tyssen.

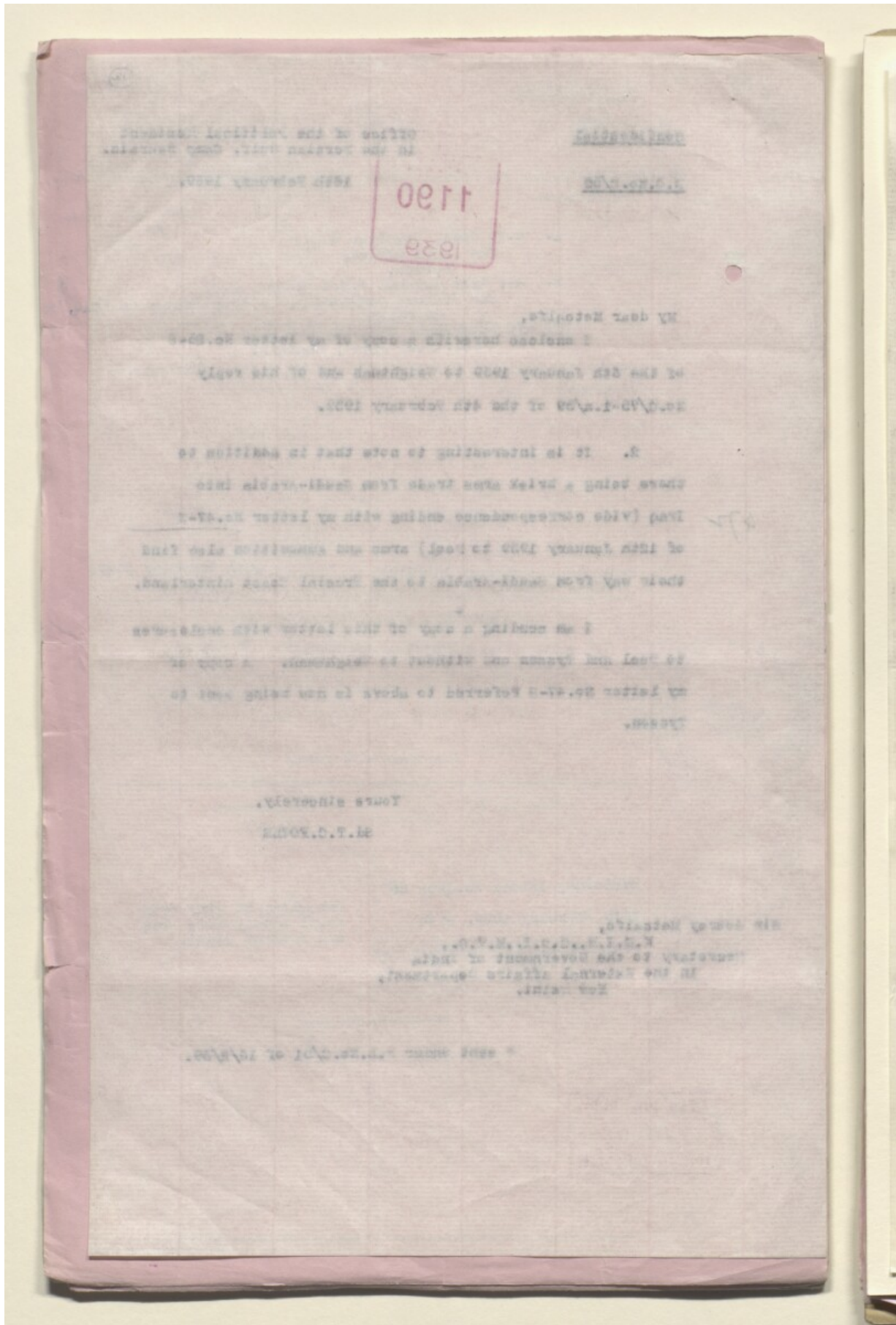
Yours sincerely,

Ed. T. C. FOULE

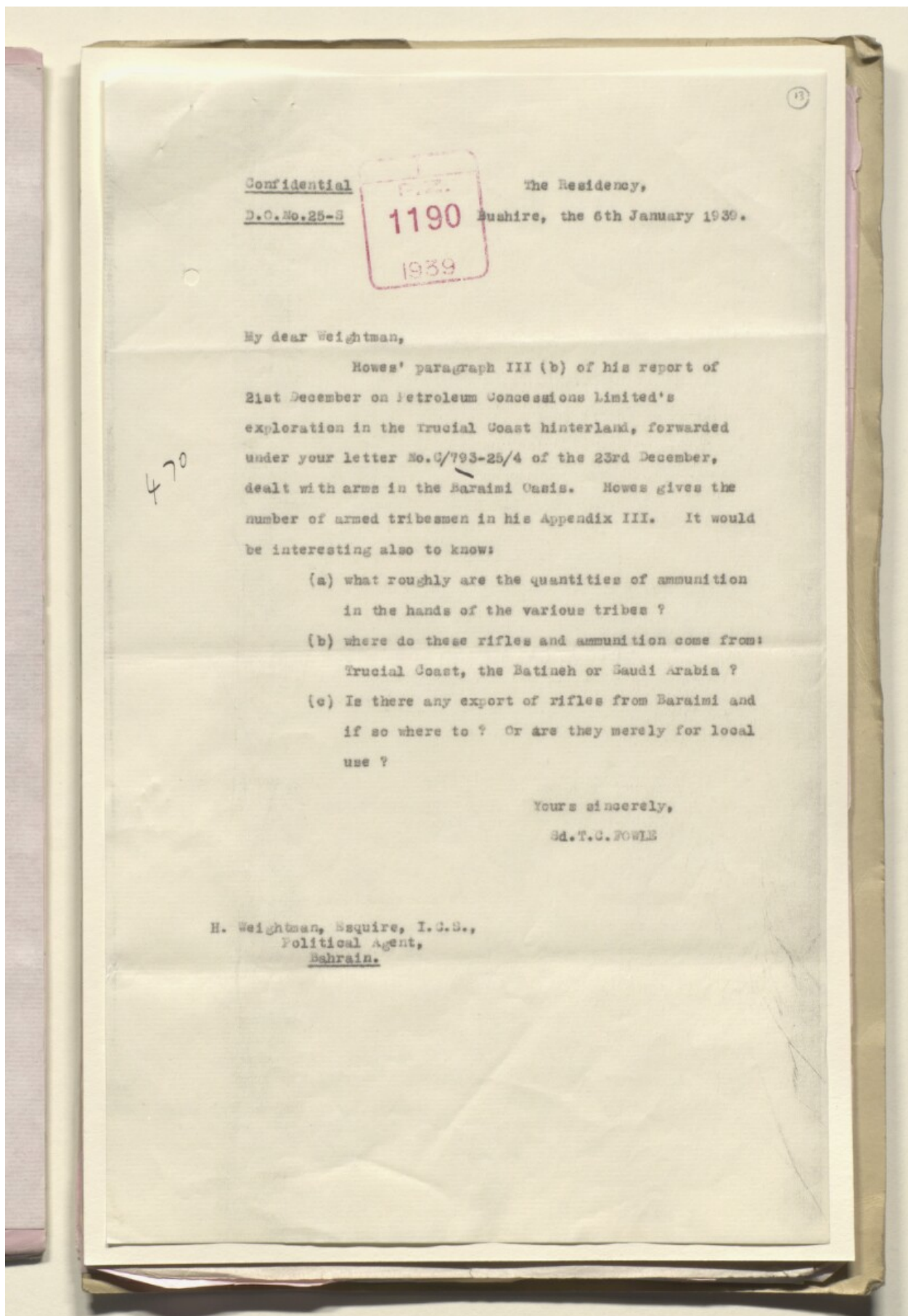
Mr Aubrey Metcalfe,  
K.C.I.E., C.B.I., M.V.O.,  
Secretary to the Government of India  
in the External Affairs Department,  
New Delhi.

\* sent under P.L.No.C/31 of 16/2/39.









Confidential

D.O.No.25-5

1190

1939

The Residency,

Bushire, the 6th January 1939.

My dear Weightman,

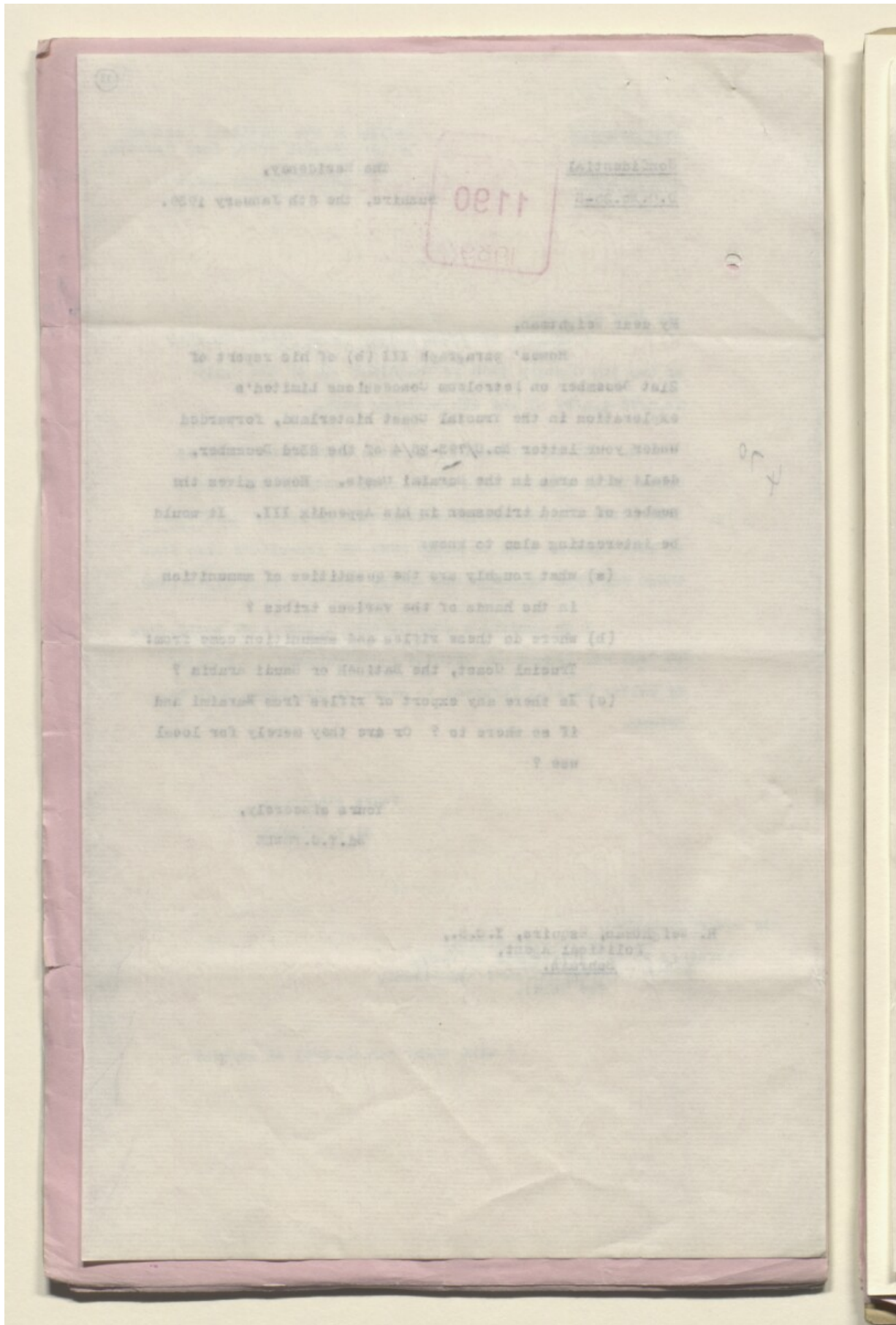
470  
Howes' paragraph III (b) of his report of 21st December on Petroleum Concessions Limited's exploration in the Trucial Coast hinterland, forwarded under your letter No.C/793-25/4 of the 23rd December, dealt with arms in the Baraimi Oasis. Howes gives the number of armed tribesmen in his Appendix III. It would be interesting also to know:

- (a) what roughly are the quantities of ammunition in the hands of the various tribes ?
- (b) where do these rifles and ammunition come from: Trucial Coast, the Batineh or Saudi Arabia ?
- (c) Is there any export of rifles from Baraimi and if so where to ? Or are they merely for local use ?

Yours sincerely,

Ed. T. C. POWELL

H. Weightman, Esquire, I.C.S.,  
Political Agent,  
Bahrain.







Confidential

D.O.No. C/75-1.a/32

1190

Dated the 4th February 1939

1939

Dear Sir Trenchard,

Will you please refer to your demi-official letter No. 25-S dated the 6th January 1939 regarding arms in the Baraimi Oasis. I enclose Howes' replies to your questions.

2. The agent I sent down also gave me some information, which is briefly as follows:-

(a) Ammunition is scarce - only a few rounds per man. Cartridge belts are half-full of empty cartridge cases; no reserves anywhere.

Comment

To be on the safe side I would take Howes' figure. Admittedly there will be plenty of empty cases in the belts but there may be small reserves here and there.

(b) Everything, rifles and ammunition comes from Nejd. Practically all rifles are old Martinis, plus Turkish and German war-time rifles.

Comment

I gather there is an outward wave of "armament" from Nejd. Bin Saud's own nomad tribes are getting more modern rifles, and their old stocks are taken over by Nejdî traders and sold in Baraimi and elsewhere. The Residency Agent is as definite as the agent that no arms are going into the interior via the Trucial Coast.

(c) No, according to the agent.

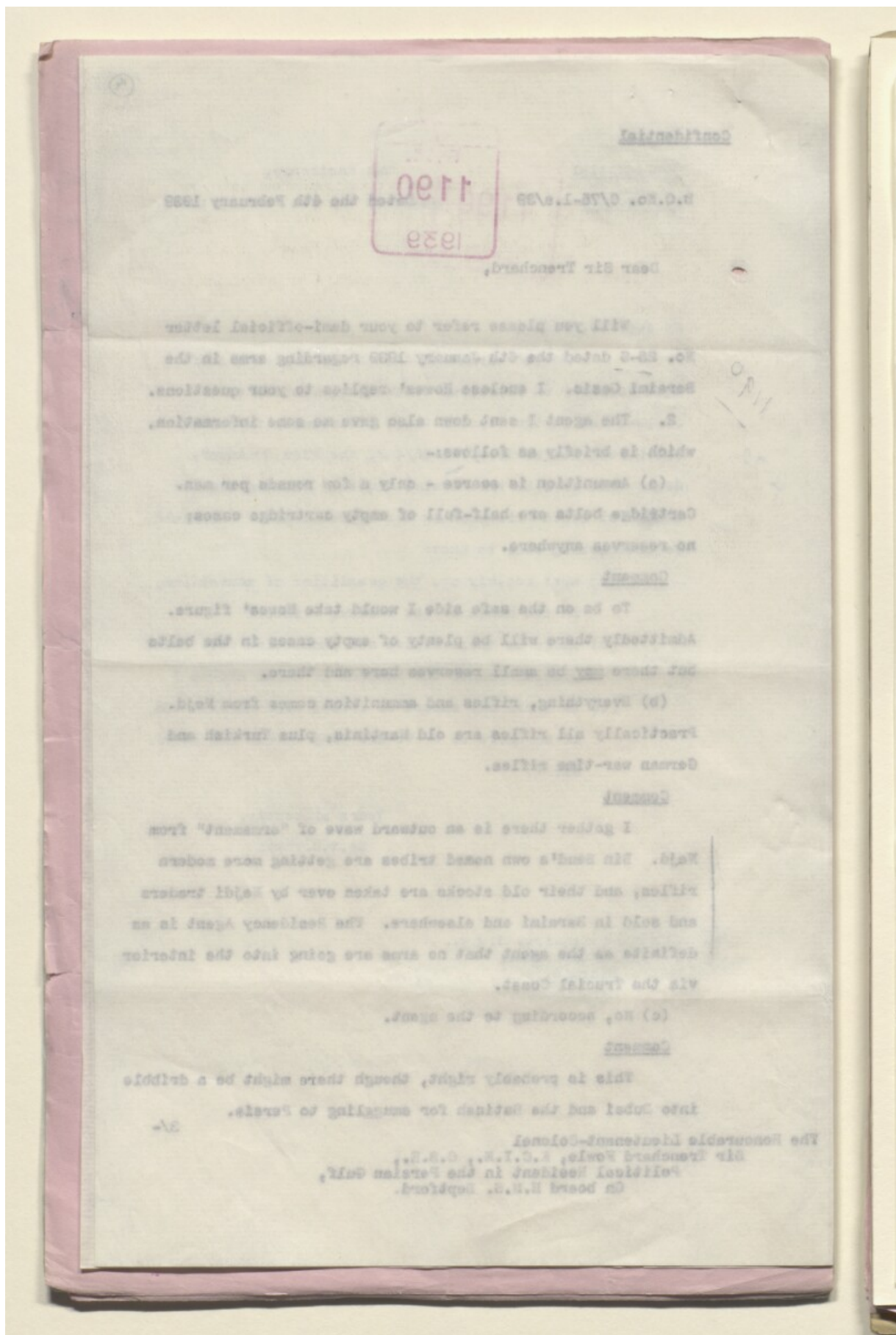
Comment

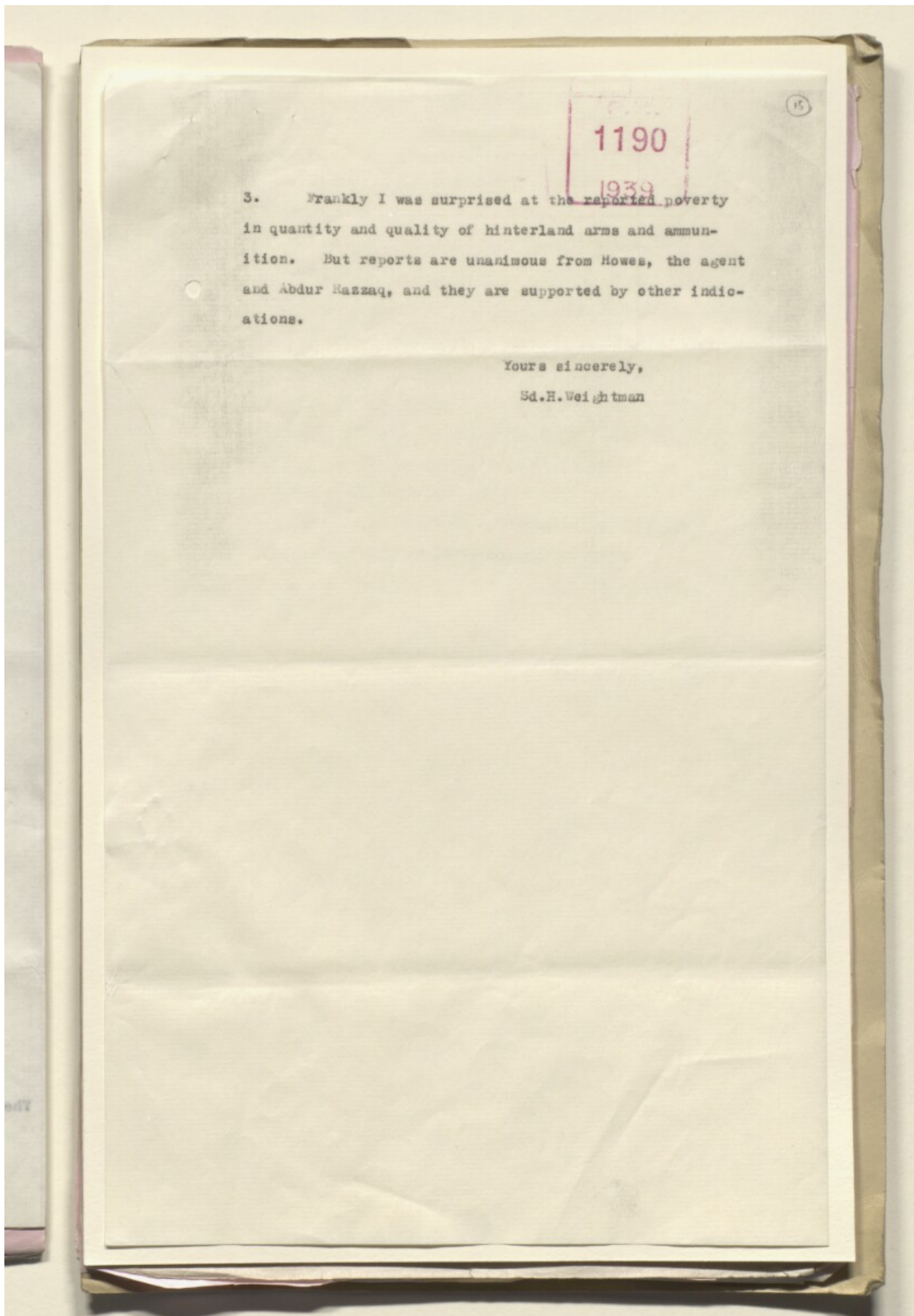
This is probably right, though there might be a dribble into Dubai and the Batineh for smuggling to Persia.

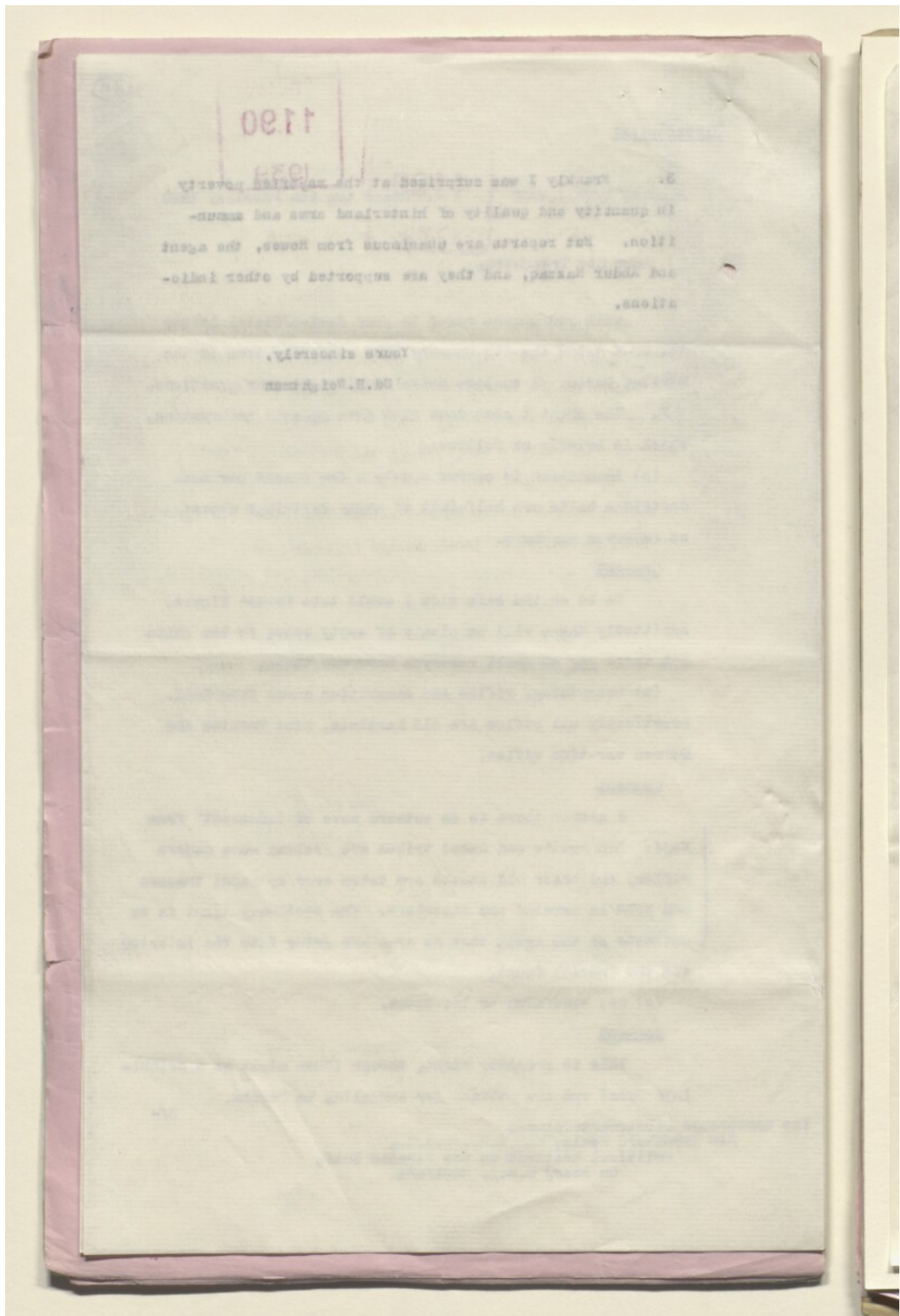
3/-

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel  
Sir Trenchard Fowle, K.C.I.E., C.B.E.,  
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,  
On board H.M.S. Deptford.

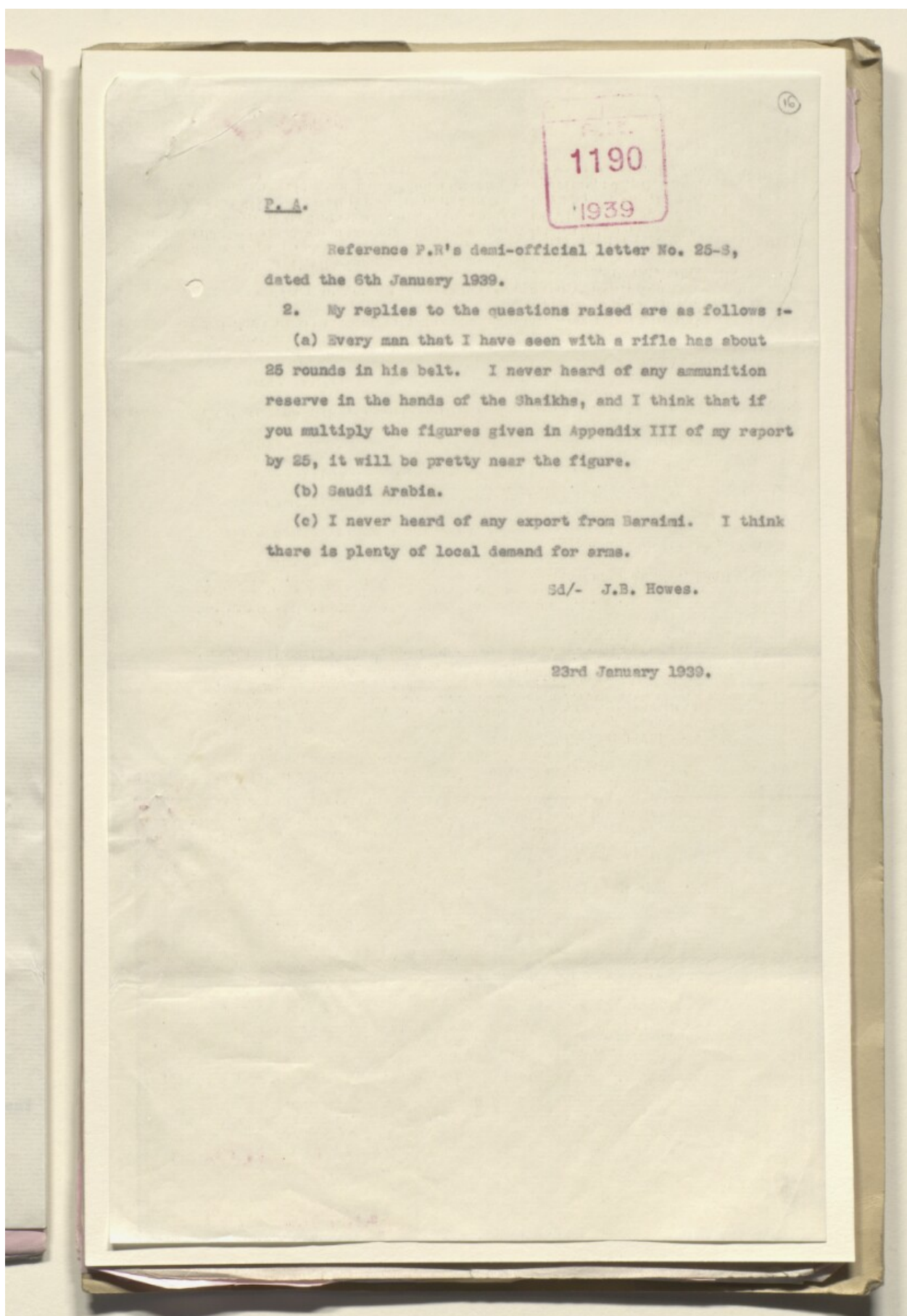












P.A.

1190  
1939

Reference P.R.'s demi-official letter No. 25-S,  
dated the 6th January 1939.

2. My replies to the questions raised are as follows :-

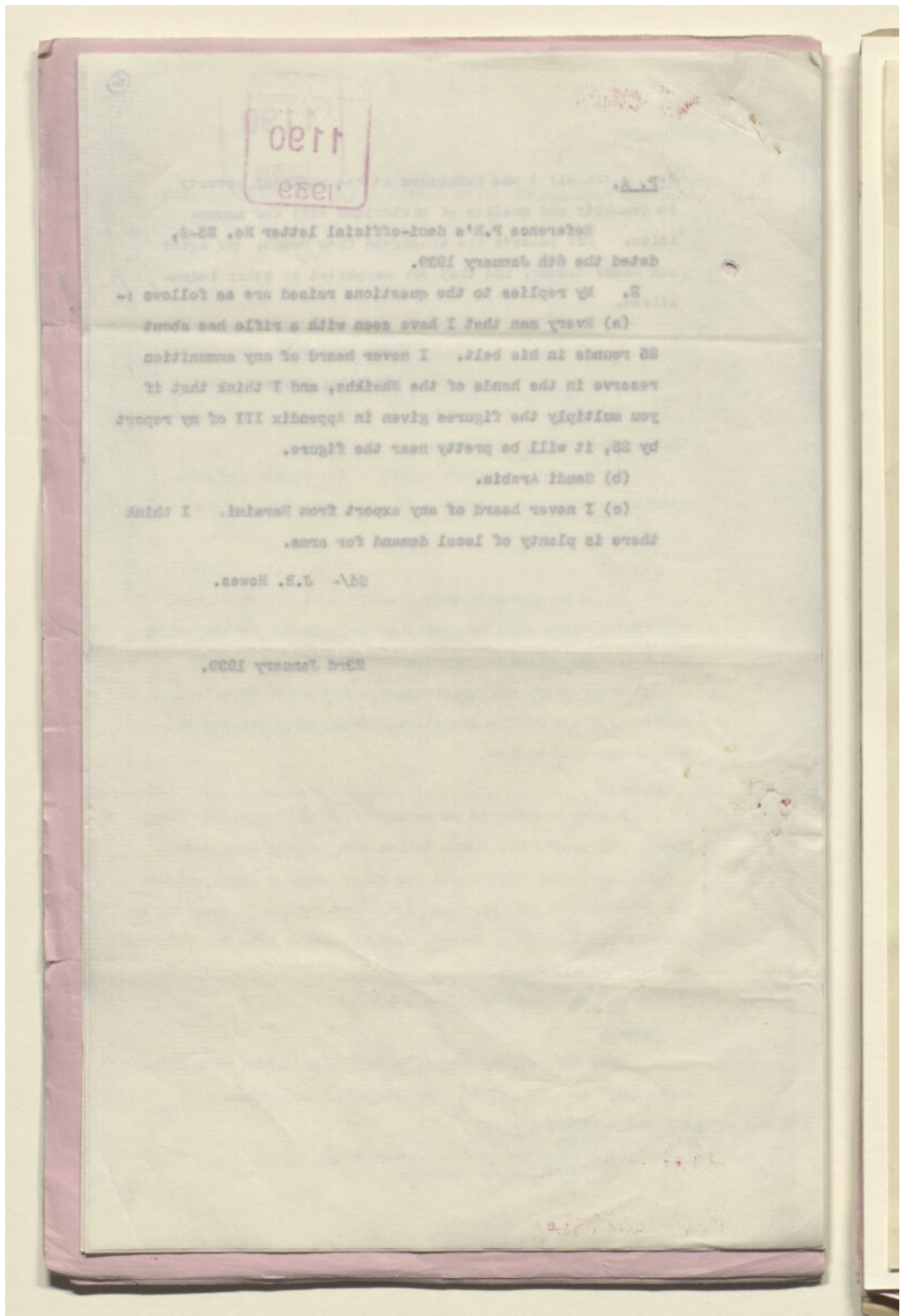
(a) Every man that I have seen with a rifle has about  
25 rounds in his belt. I never heard of any ammunition  
reserve in the hands of the Shaikhs, and I think that if  
you multiply the figures given in Appendix III of my report  
by 25, it will be pretty near the figure.

(b) Saudi Arabia.

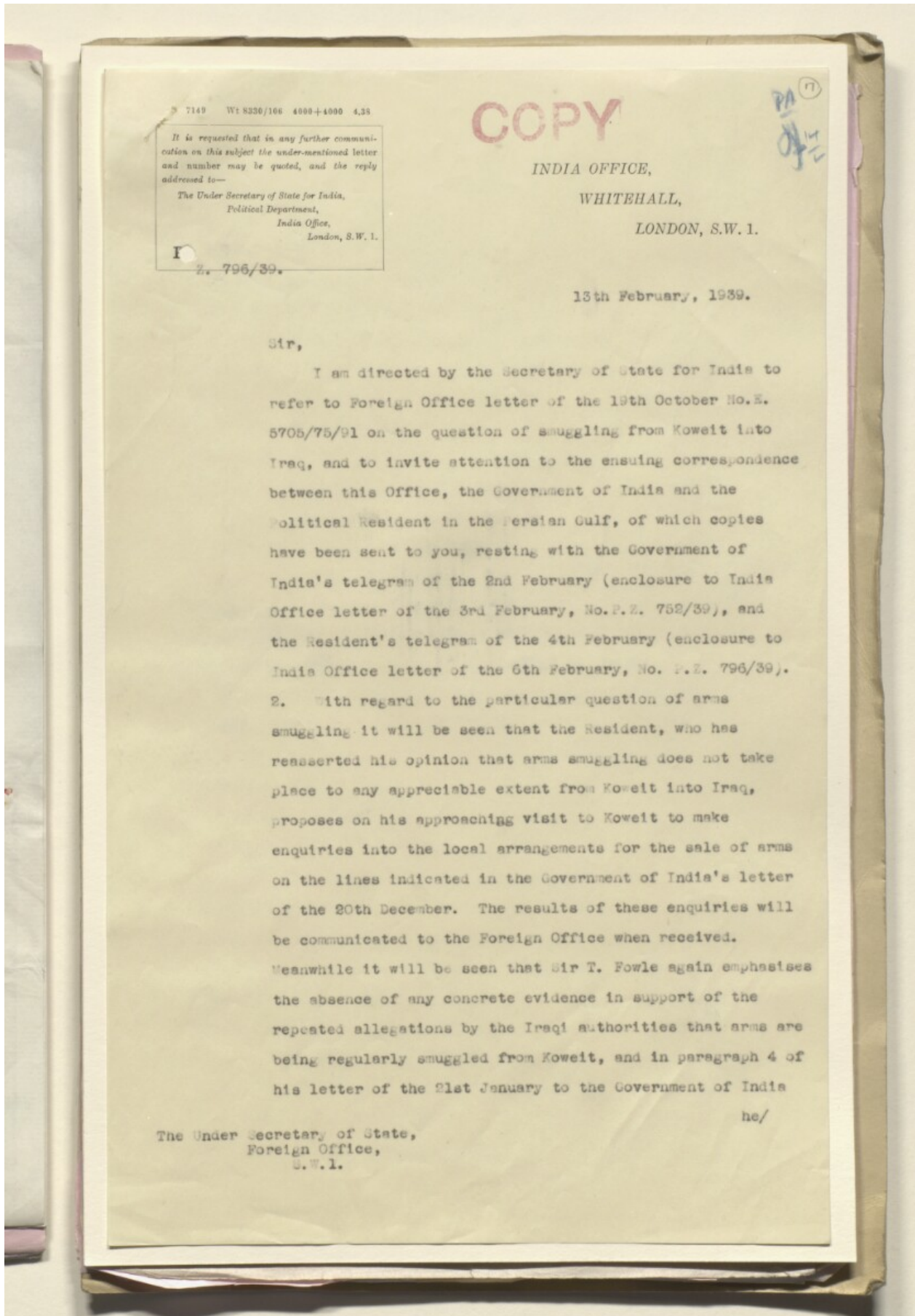
(c) I never heard of any export from Baraimi. I think  
there is plenty of local demand for arms.

Sd/- J.B. Howes.

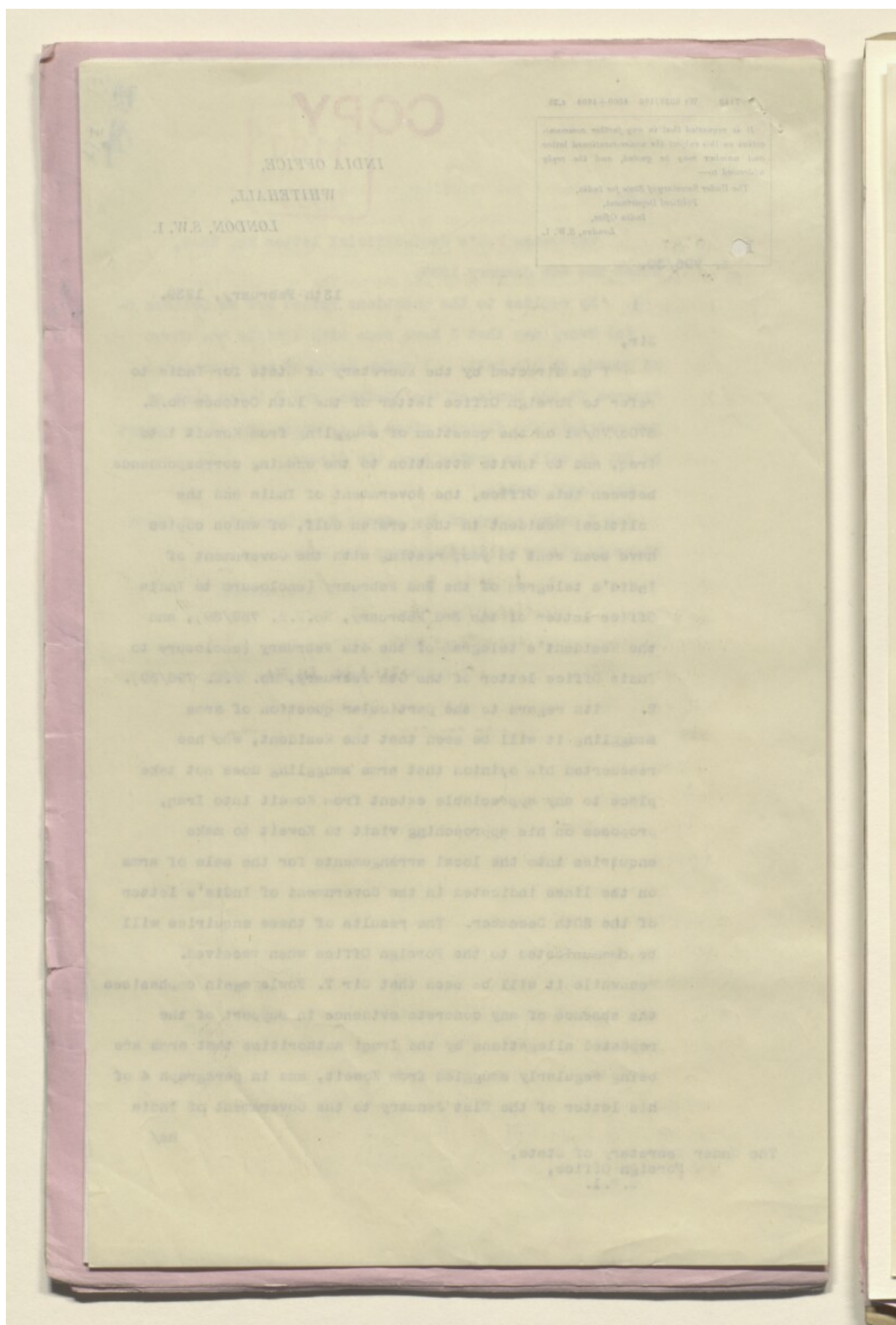
23rd January 1939.













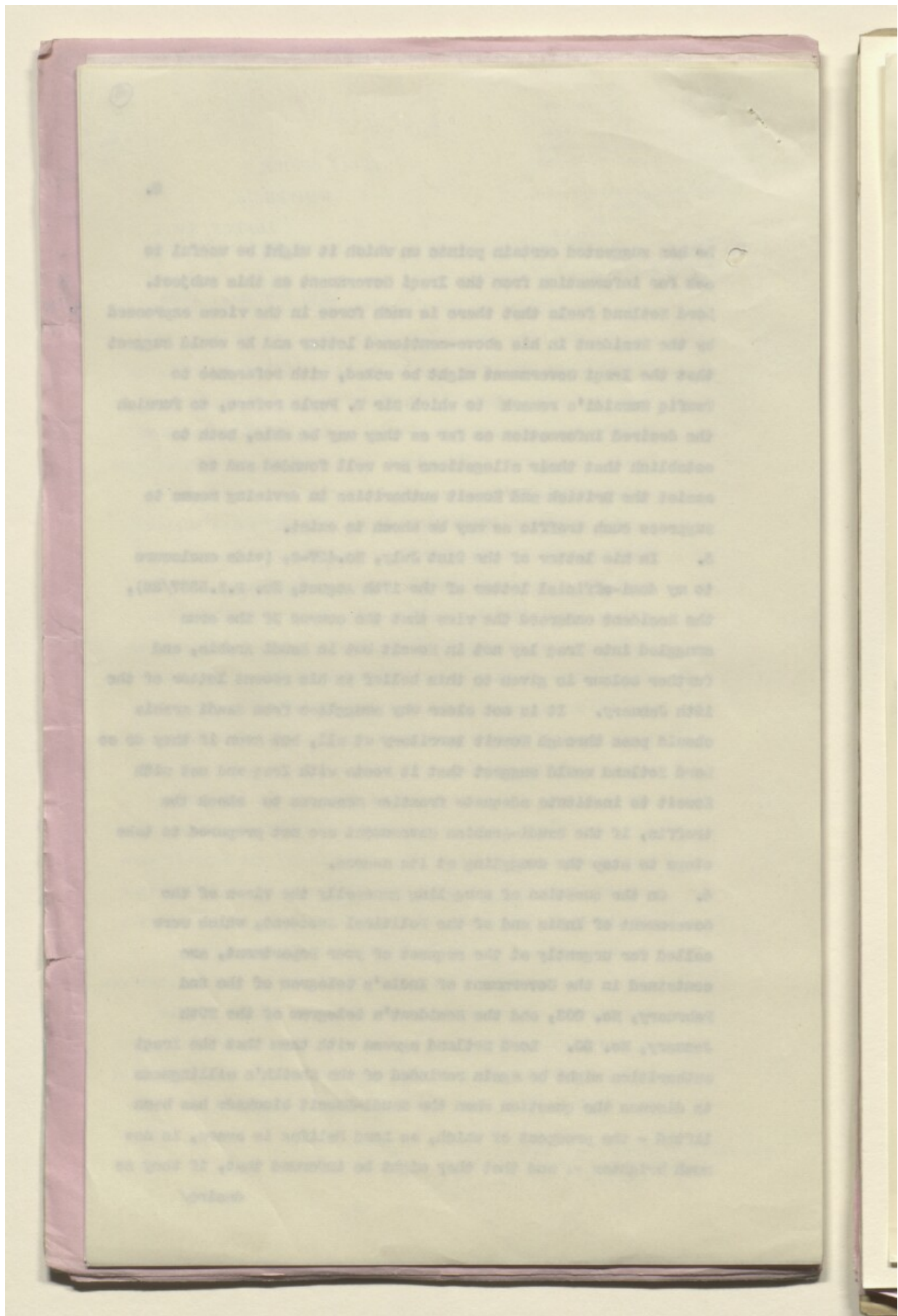
(18)

2.

he has suggested certain points on which it might be useful to ask for information from the Iraqi Government on this subject. Lord Setland feels that there is much force in the views expressed by the Resident in his above-mentioned letter and he would suggest that the Iraqi Government might be asked, with reference to Tawfiq Suwaidi's remark to which Sir T. Fowle refers, to furnish the desired information so far as they may be able, both to establish that their allegations are well founded and to assist the British and Koweit authorities in devising means to suppress such traffic as may be shown to exist.

3. In his letter of the 21st July, No. 407-S, (vide enclosure to my semi-official letter of the 17th August, No. P.2.5537/30), the Resident endorsed the view that the source of the arms smuggled into Iraq lay not in Koweit but in Saudi Arabia, and further colour is given to this belief in his recent letter of the 12th January. It is not clear why smugglers from Saudi Arabia should pass through Koweit territory at all, but even if they do so Lord Setland would suggest that it rests with Iraq and not with Koweit to institute adequate frontier measures to check the traffic, if the Saudi-Arabian Government are not prepared to take steps to stop the smuggling at its source.

4. On the question of smuggling generally the views of the Government of India and of the Political Resident, which were called for urgently at the request of your Department, are contained in the Government of India's telegram of the 2nd February, No. 203, and the Resident's telegram of the 29th January, No. 80. Lord Setland agrees with them that the Iraqi authorities might be again reminded of the Sheikh's willingness to discuss the question when the Saudi-Koweit blockade has been lifted - the prospect of which, as Lord Halifax is aware, is now much brighter -, and that they might be informed that, if they so desire/







(19)

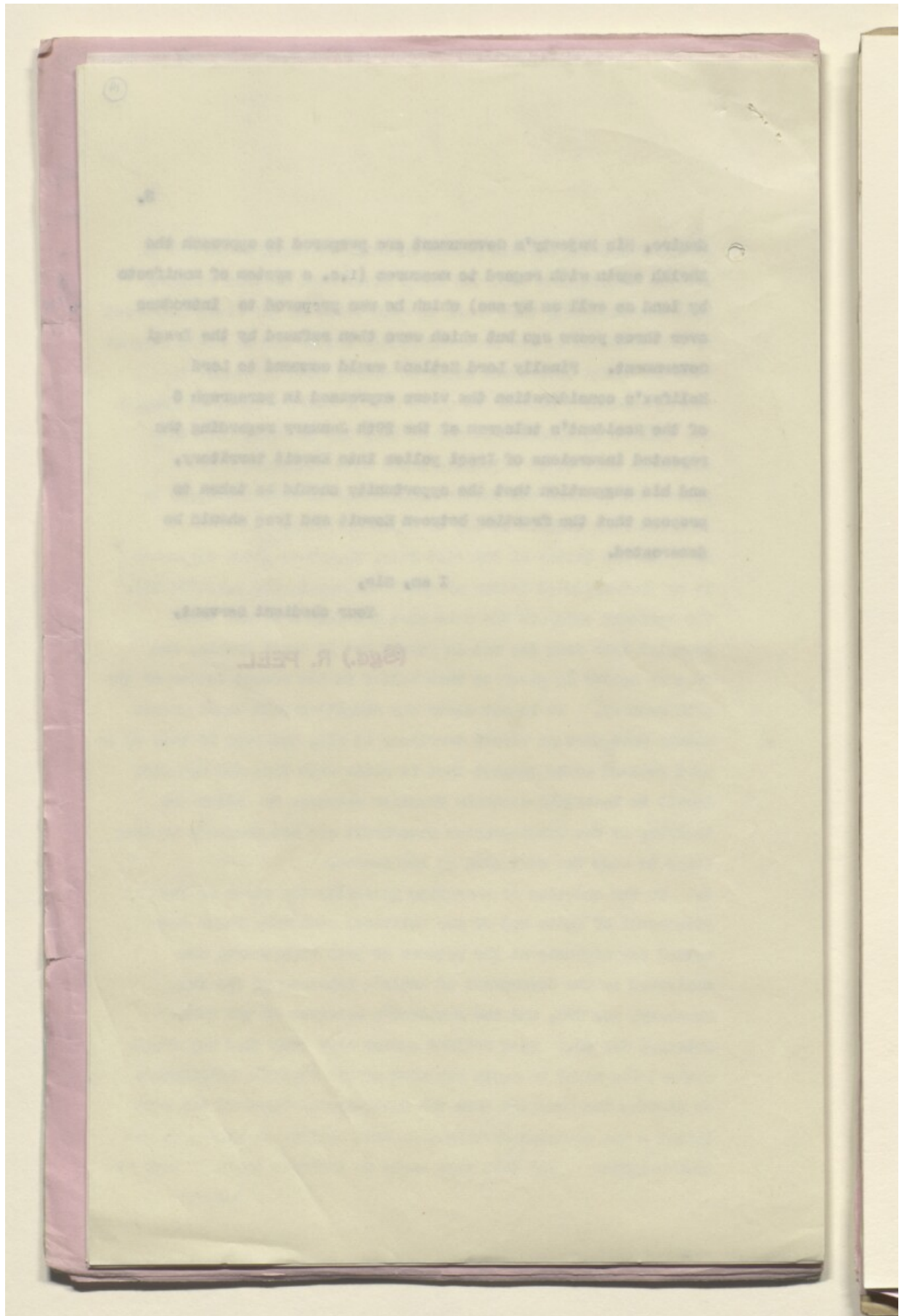
8.

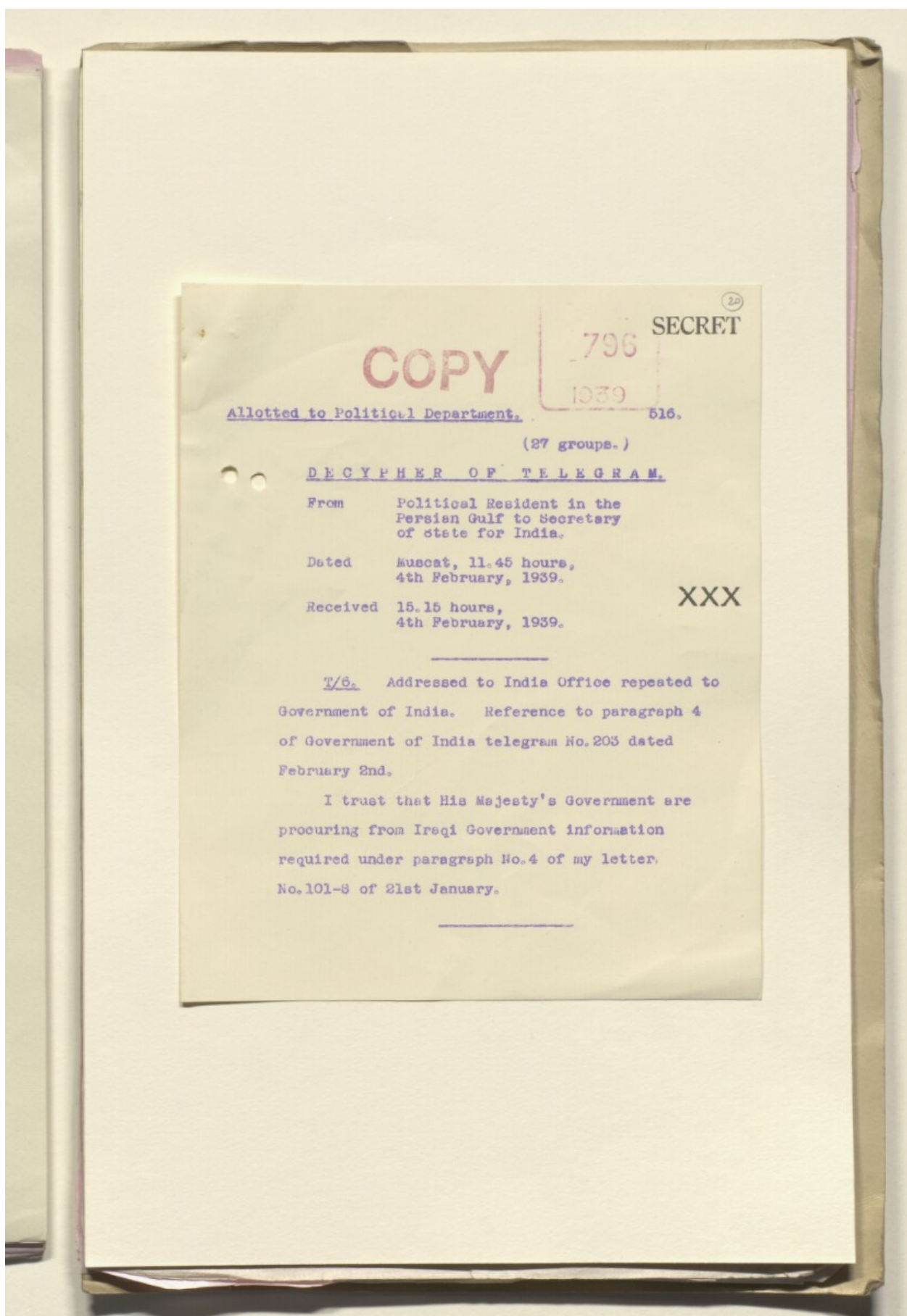
desire, His Majesty's Government are prepared to approach the Sheikh again with regard to measures (i.e. a system of manifests by land as well as by sea) which he was prepared to introduce over three years ago but which were then refused by the Iraqi Government. Finally Lord Ectland would commend to Lord Halifax's consideration the views expressed in paragraph 6 of the Resident's telegram of the 29th January regarding the repeated incursions of Iraqi police into Koweit territory, and his suggestion that the opportunity should be taken to propose that the frontier between Koweit and Iraq should be demarcated.

I am, Sir,

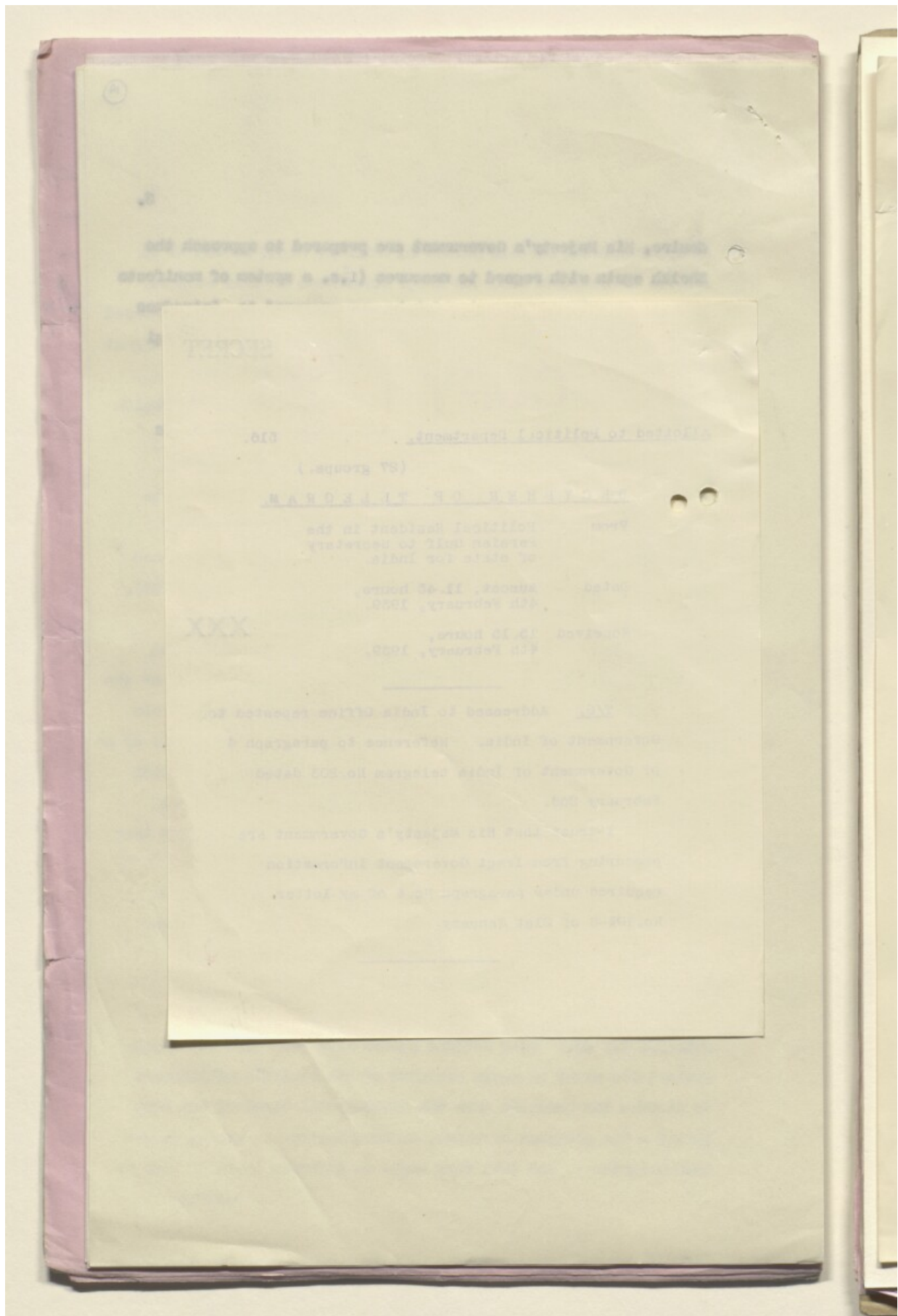
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) R. PEEL.











(2)  
SECRET

COPY

752

1939

Alotted to Political Department. (76 groups.)

481.

Copies circulated.

DECRYPTER OF TELEGRAM.

From Government of India, External  
Affairs Department, to Secretary  
of State for India.

Dated Delhi, 00.00 hours,  
2nd February, 1939.

Received 20.45 hours, 2nd February, 1939.

XXX

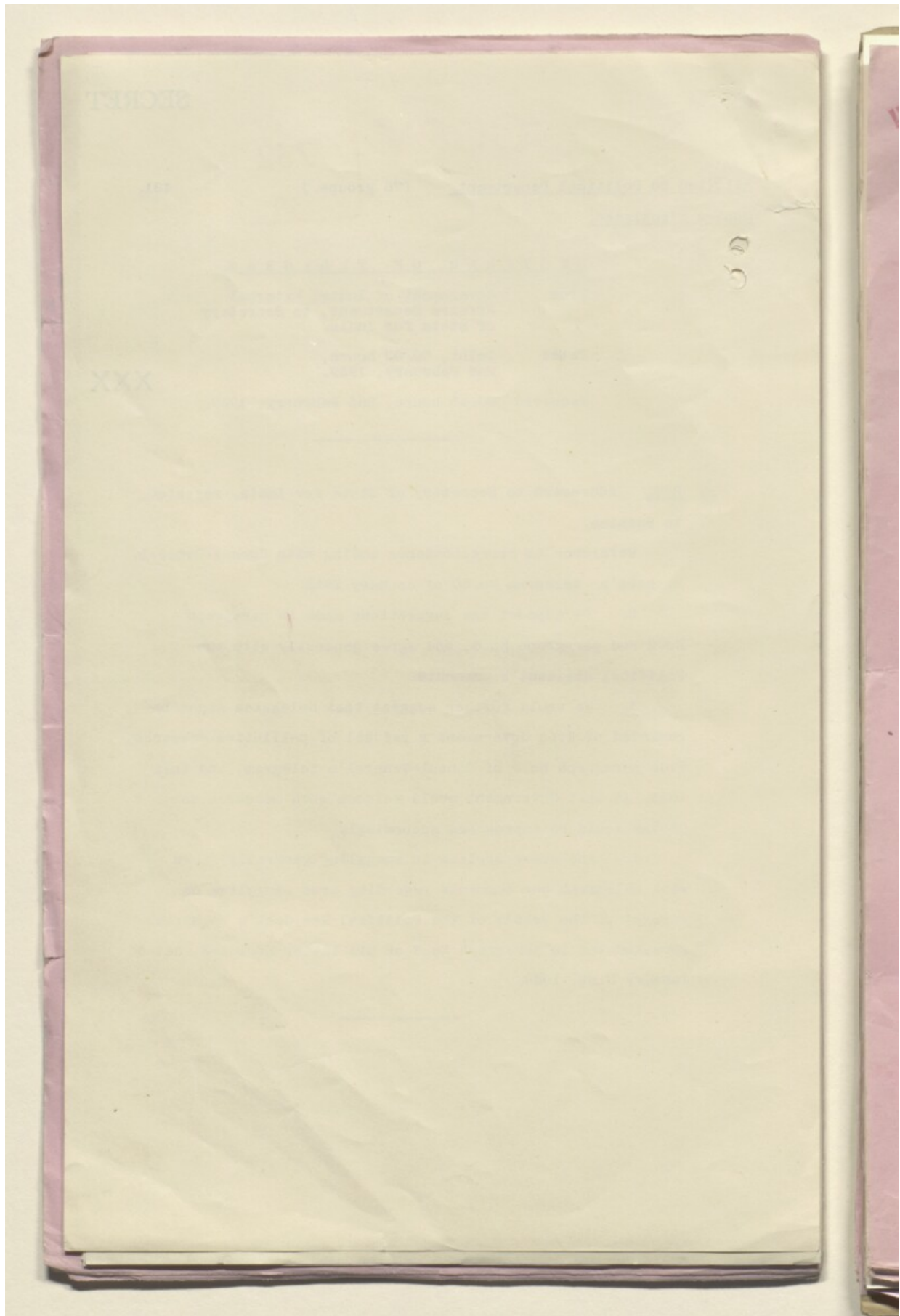
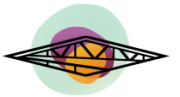
203. Addressed to Secretary of State for India, repeated  
to Bushire.

Reference to correspondence ending with Consul-General,  
Bushire's telegram No.80 of January 29th.

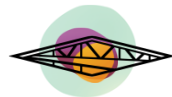
2. We support the suggestions made in paragraph  
No.2 and paragraph No.6, and agree generally with the  
Political Resident's comments.

3. We would further suggest that delegates might be  
reminded of Iraq Government's refusal of palliative measures,  
vide paragraph No.5 of Consul-General's telegram, and told  
that, if that Government would welcome such measures now,  
Sheikh would be approached accordingly.

4. The above applies to smuggling generally. We  
will telegraph our comments regarding arms smuggling on  
receipt of the result of the Political Resident's enquiries  
foreshadowed in paragraph No.2 of his letter No.101-S, dated  
January 21st, 1939.







**INDEXED**

**FILE COPY**

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. 102-S of 1939.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,  
The India Office,  
London,

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document~~xxx~~

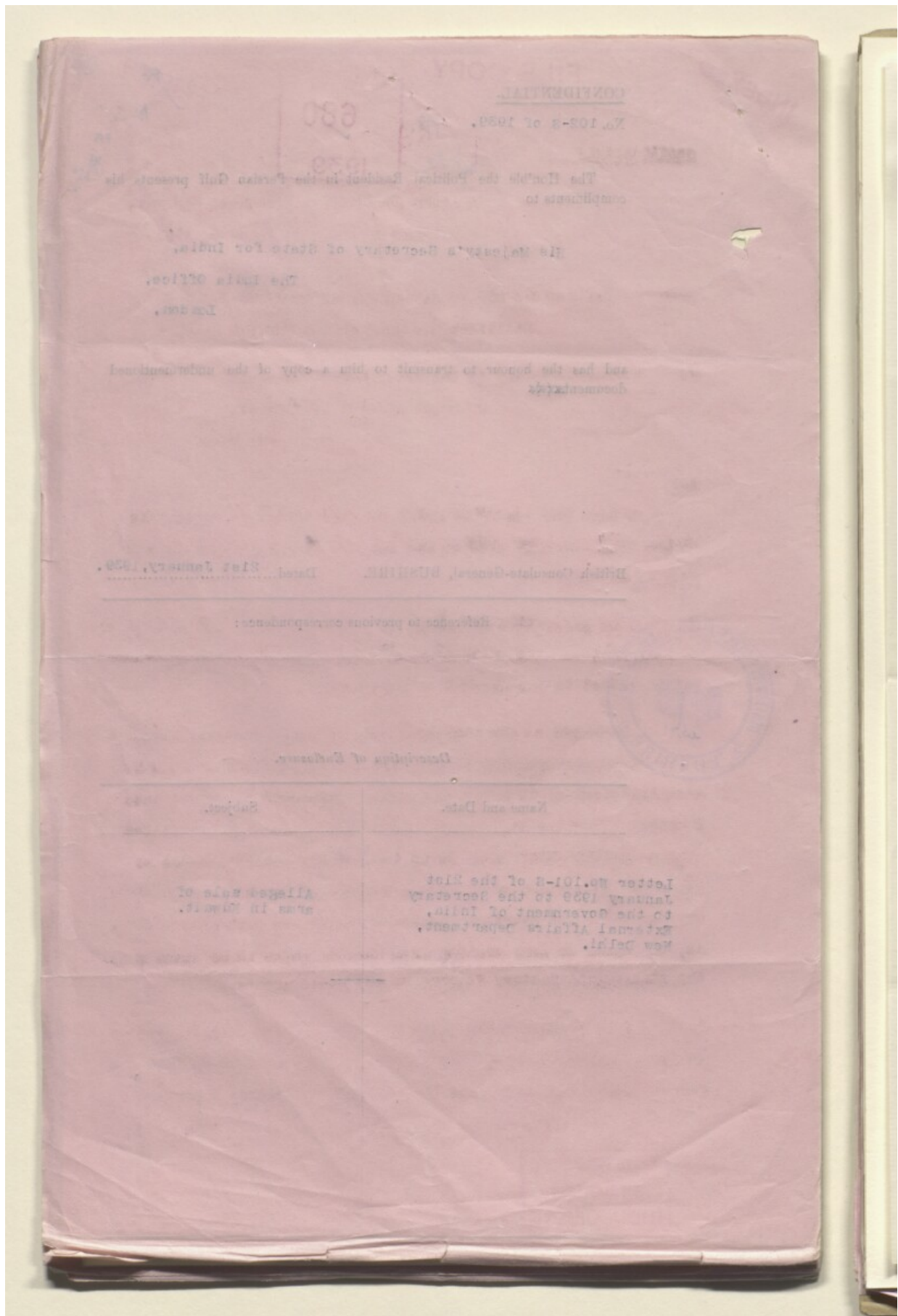
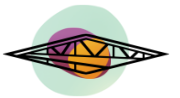
British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated... 21st January, 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence:

**DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.**

Name and Date.	Subject.
Letter No. 101-S of the 21st January 1939 to the Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, New Delhi.	Alleged sale of arms in Kuwait.

**RECO. POL. DEPT.**  
**30 JAN 1939**  
**INDIA OFFICE**







Confidential.

680

No. 101-S of 1939.

1939  
British Residency & Consulate-General,

Bushire, the 21st January, 1939.

From - The Hon'ble Sir Trenchard Fowle, K.C.I.E., C.B.E.,  
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To - The Secretary to the Government of India,  
External Affairs Department,  
New Delhi.

Sir,

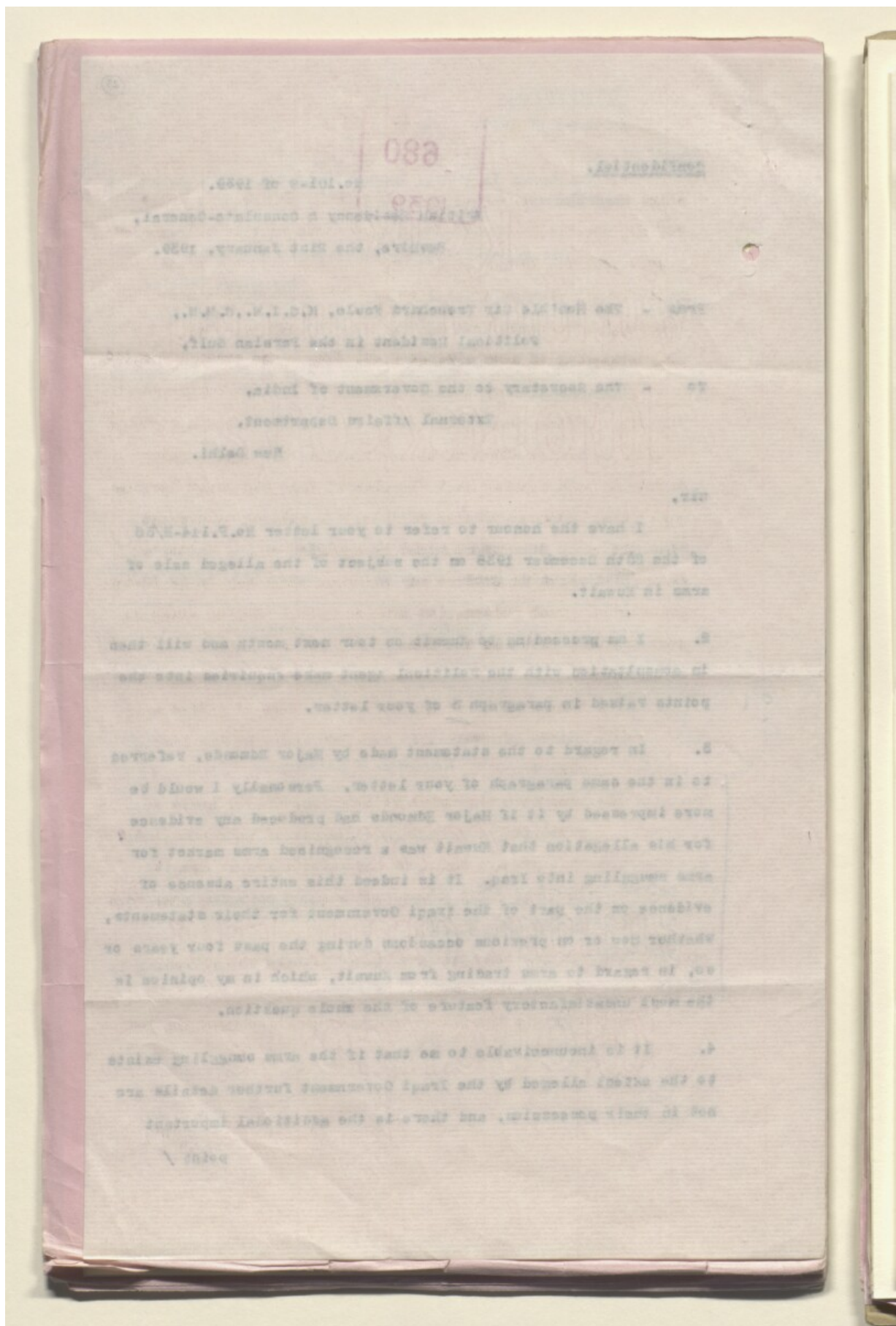
I have the honour to refer to your letter No. F.114-N/38 of the 20th December 1938 on the subject of the alleged sale of arms in Kuwait.

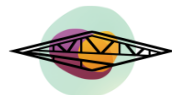
2. I am proceeding to Kuwait on tour next month and will then in consultation with the Political Agent make enquiries into the points raised in paragraph 3 of your letter.

3. In regard to the statement made by Major Edmonds, referred to in the same paragraph of your letter. Personally I would be more impressed by it if Major Edmonds had produced any evidence for his allegation that Kuwait was a recognised arms market for arms smuggling into Iraq. It is indeed this entire absence of evidence on the part of the Iraqi Government for their statements, whether now or on previous occasions during the past four years or so, in regard to arms trading from Kuwait, which in my opinion is the most unsatisfactory feature of the whole question.

4. It is inconceivable to me that if the arms smuggling exists to the extent alleged by the Iraqi Government further details are not in their possession, and there is the additional important point /







(24)

-2-

point that the production of such details by giving a basis for our further enquiries would make these considerably easier. I note that Mr. Baxter in his conversation with the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 4th October 1938 asked if the Iraqi Government were able to produce any evidence "to show that smuggling of arms did, in fact, take place through Kuwait".

8198

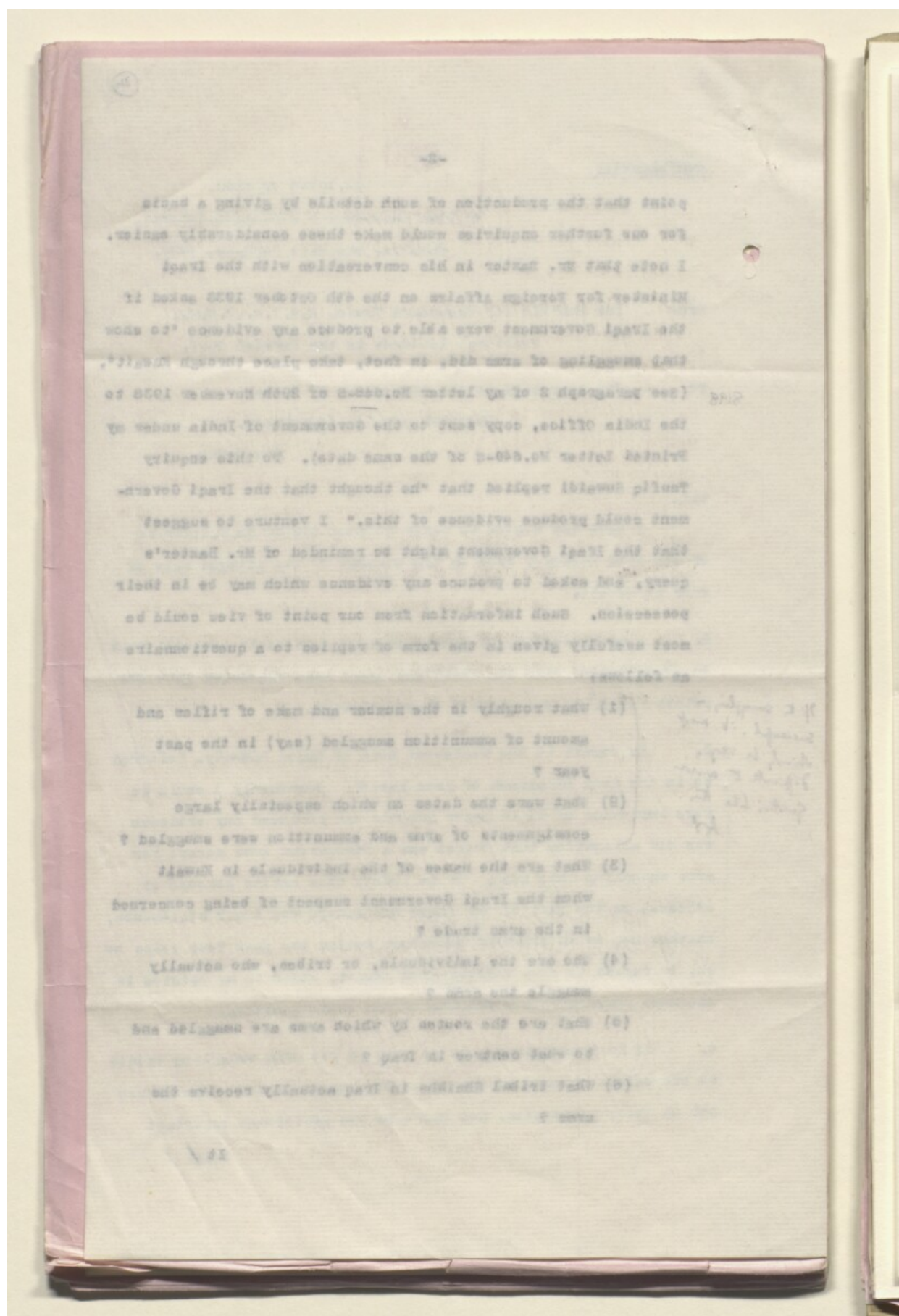
(See paragraph 2 of my letter No. 648-S of 29th November 1938 to the India Office, copy sent to the Government of India under my Printed Letter No. 649-S of the same date). To this enquiry Taufiq Suwaidi replied that "he thought that the Iraqi Government could produce evidence of this." I venture to suggest that the Iraqi Government might be reminded of Mr. Baxter's query, and asked to produce any evidence which may be in their possession. Such information from our point of view could be most usefully given in the form of replies to a questionnaire as follows:

If the smuggling is  
successful, it must  
be very  
difficult to cover  
quarters like this.  
Ad

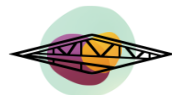
- (1) What roughly is the number and make of rifles and amount of ammunition smuggled (say) in the past year?
- (2) What were the dates on which especially large consignments of arms and ammunition were smuggled?
- (3) What are the names of the individuals in Kuwait whom the Iraqi Government suspect of being concerned in the arms trade?
- (4) Who are the individuals, or tribes, who actually smuggle the arms?
- (5) What are the routes by which arms are smuggled and to what centres in Iraq?
- (6) What tribal Shaikhs in Iraq actually receive the arms?

It /









(25)

-3-

It seems to me that the Iraqi Government should be well able to give some sort of answers to the above queries. Kuwait is only some 100 miles from Basrah, there is a constant flow of Iraqis coming and going between the two places, and at Safwan on the Kuwait-Basrah motor route there is an important Iraqi frontier post.

5. Mr. Baxter in the course of the same conversation with Taufiq Suwaidi pressed the point that the Iraqi Government themselves should take anti-smuggling measures in Iraq itself. In this connection the opinions of Major Edmonds himself, Major Sargen of the Iraq Police and Hajji al Asil, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, (see paragraph 4 of my letter quoted above), are of importance. It is true that some of these measures apply to forms of smuggling other than arms, but there seems no doubt that the Iraqi Government could exercise a much closer control than they do over the entry of arms across the Iraqi frontier (e.g. paragraph 5 of my Express Letter No.427-S of 21st July 1938 to the Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq). I venture to suggest that this point also might be again brought to the notice of the Iraqi Government.

*(See ref to 15  
PA 1615, on 27  
8D)*

6. I am sending a copy of this letter to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

I have the honour to be,

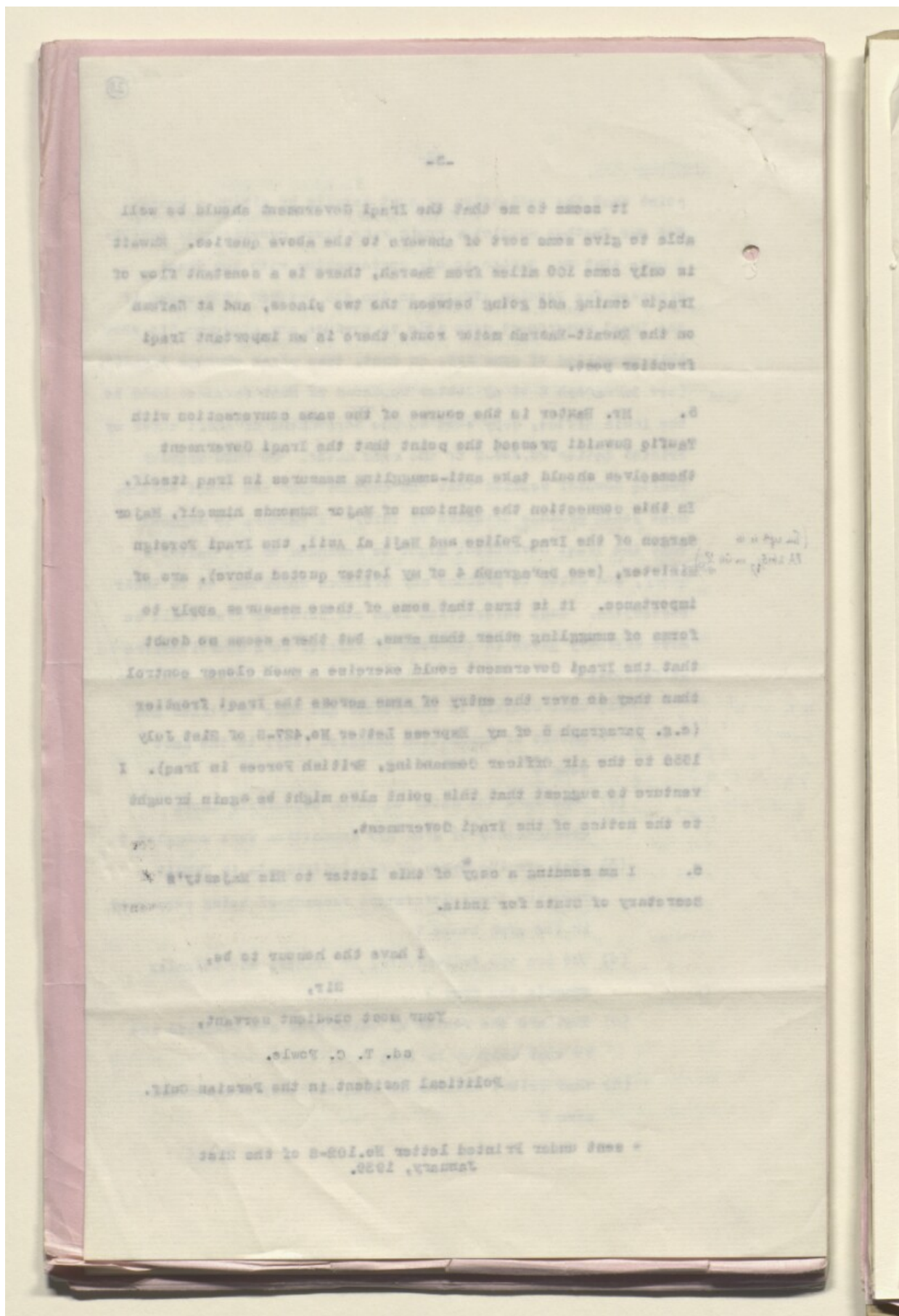
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

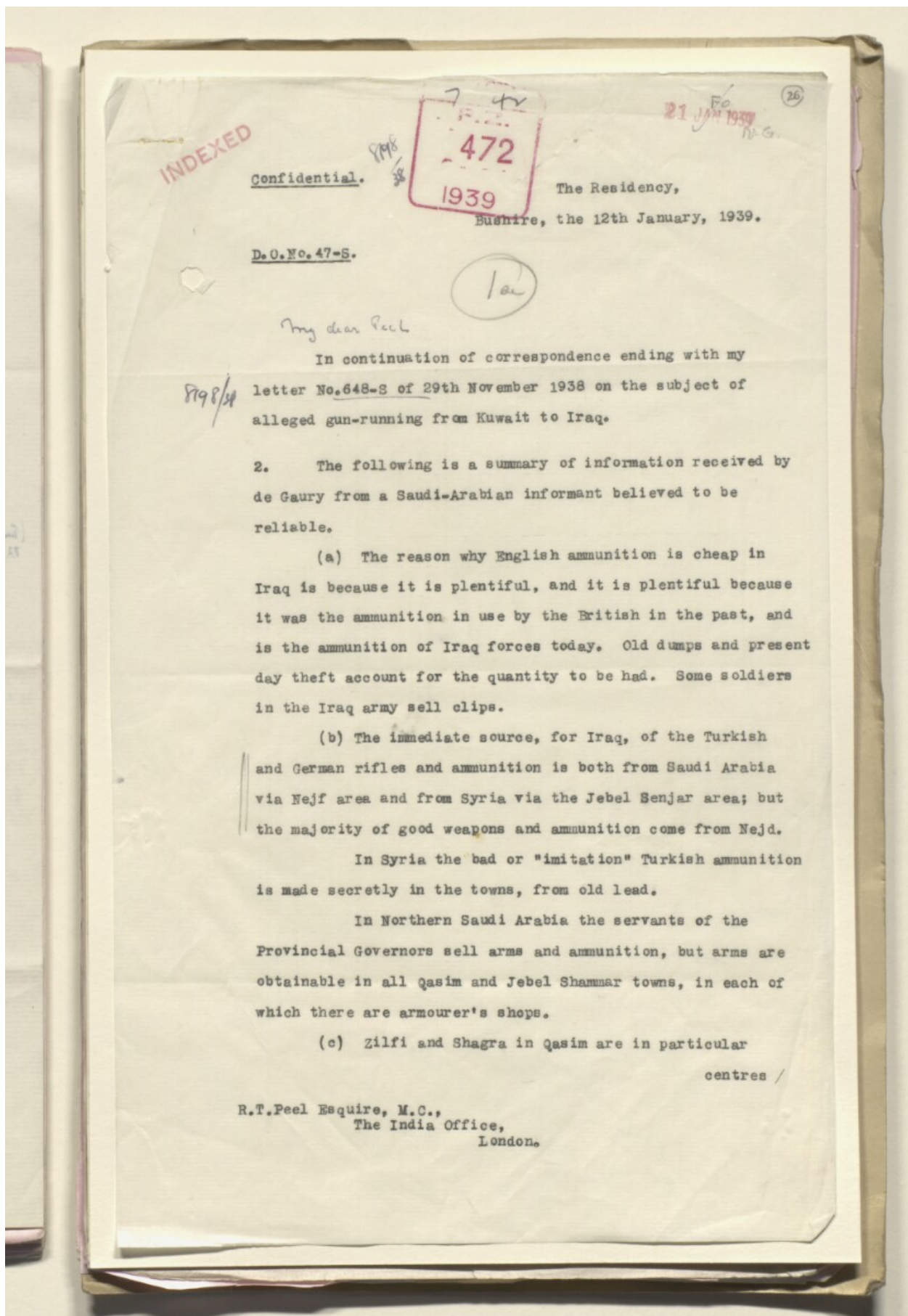
Ed. T. C. Fowle.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

\* sent under Printed letter No.102-S of the 21st  
January, 1939.







INDEXED

Confidential.

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21 JAN 1939

26

The Residency,

Bushire, the 12th January, 1939.

D.O.No. 47-S.

My dear Peel

898/38  
In continuation of correspondence ending with my letter No. 648-S of 29th November 1938 on the subject of alleged gun-running from Kuwait to Iraq.

2. The following is a summary of information received by de Gaury from a Saudi-Arabian informant believed to be reliable.

(a) The reason why English ammunition is cheap in Iraq is because it is plentiful, and it is plentiful because it was the ammunition in use by the British in the past, and is the ammunition of Iraq forces today. Old dumps and present day theft account for the quantity to be had. Some soldiers in the Iraq army sell clips.

(b) The immediate source, for Iraq, of the Turkish and German rifles and ammunition is both from Saudi Arabia via Nejf area and from Syria via the Jebel Senjar area; but the majority of good weapons and ammunition come from Nejd.

In Syria the bad or "imitation" Turkish ammunition is made secretly in the towns, from old lead.

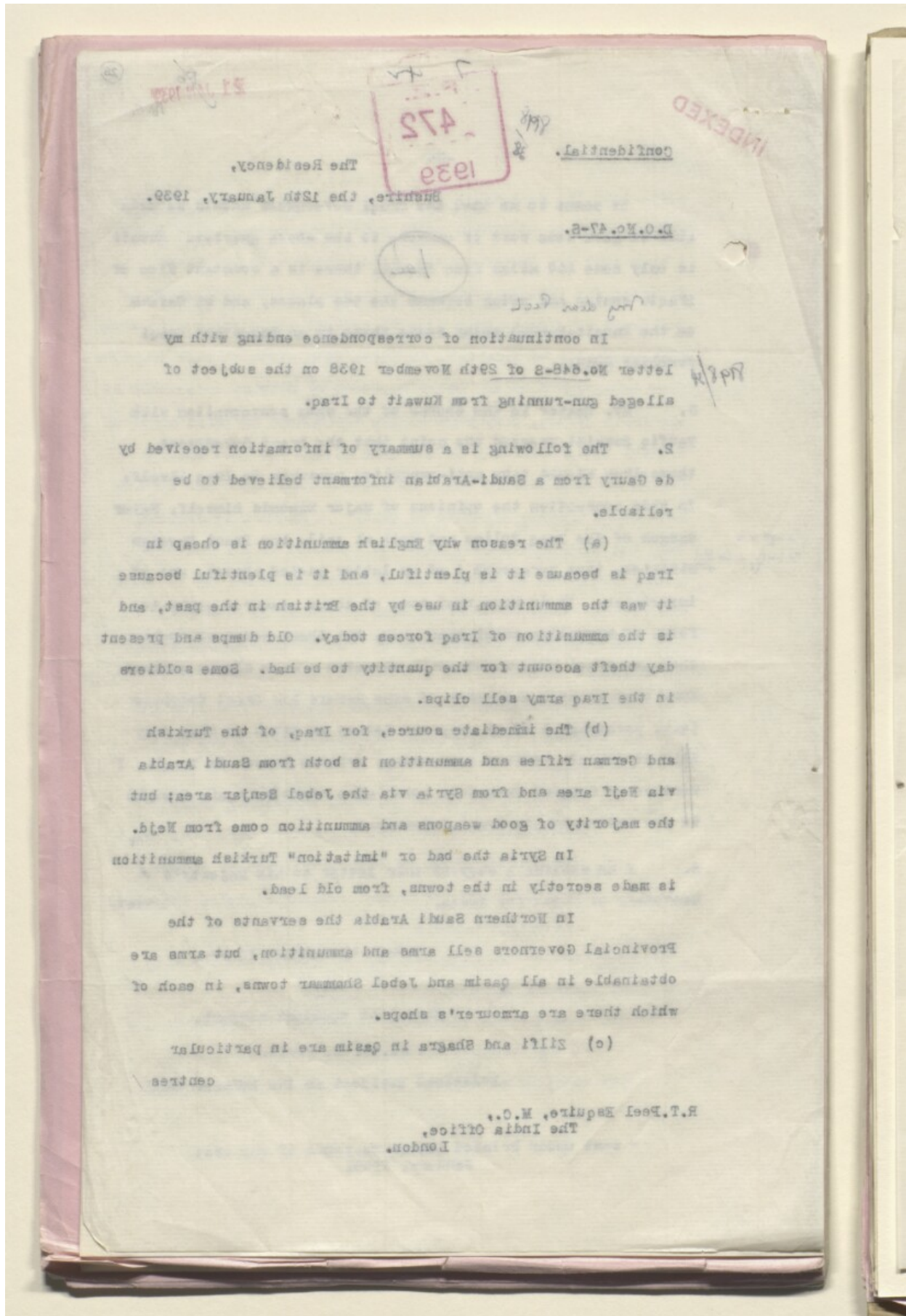
In Northern Saudi Arabia the servants of the Provincial Governors sell arms and ammunition, but arms are obtainable in all Qasim and Jebel Shammar towns, in each of which there are armourer's shops.

(c) Zilfi and Shagra in Qasim are in particular

centres /

R.T. Peel Esquire, M.C.,  
The India Office,  
London.







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centres for arms and ammunition traffic. In Zilfi Muhammad Ibn Rashid is an active merchant, and in Shagra, Nasr and Ali al Asus Kharaiji, are purveyors. They buy rifles, from the quantity always in circulation and available, for example when replaced by newer ones received by individuals, from the Saudi Government, either in the form of a "service issue" to Royal servants and soldiers, or as presents to Shaikhs and other Bedouin followers of the King.

X || These Qasim merchants also sell to Qataris and Omanis, but most arms go to Iraq by one of the many desert paths or one of the six caravan routes in use to that frontier.

(d) They correspond with Nejeffi merchants about their trade, but apart from consignments, which are not great, there is a continual drift of arms and ammunition towards Iraq through the tribes, particularly at the time of the restocking of the Saudi Bedouins in Iraq. Nearly every Bedouin from Saudi Arabia then brings 100 rounds for sale, as it is a convenient and easily convertible stock on which there is profit.

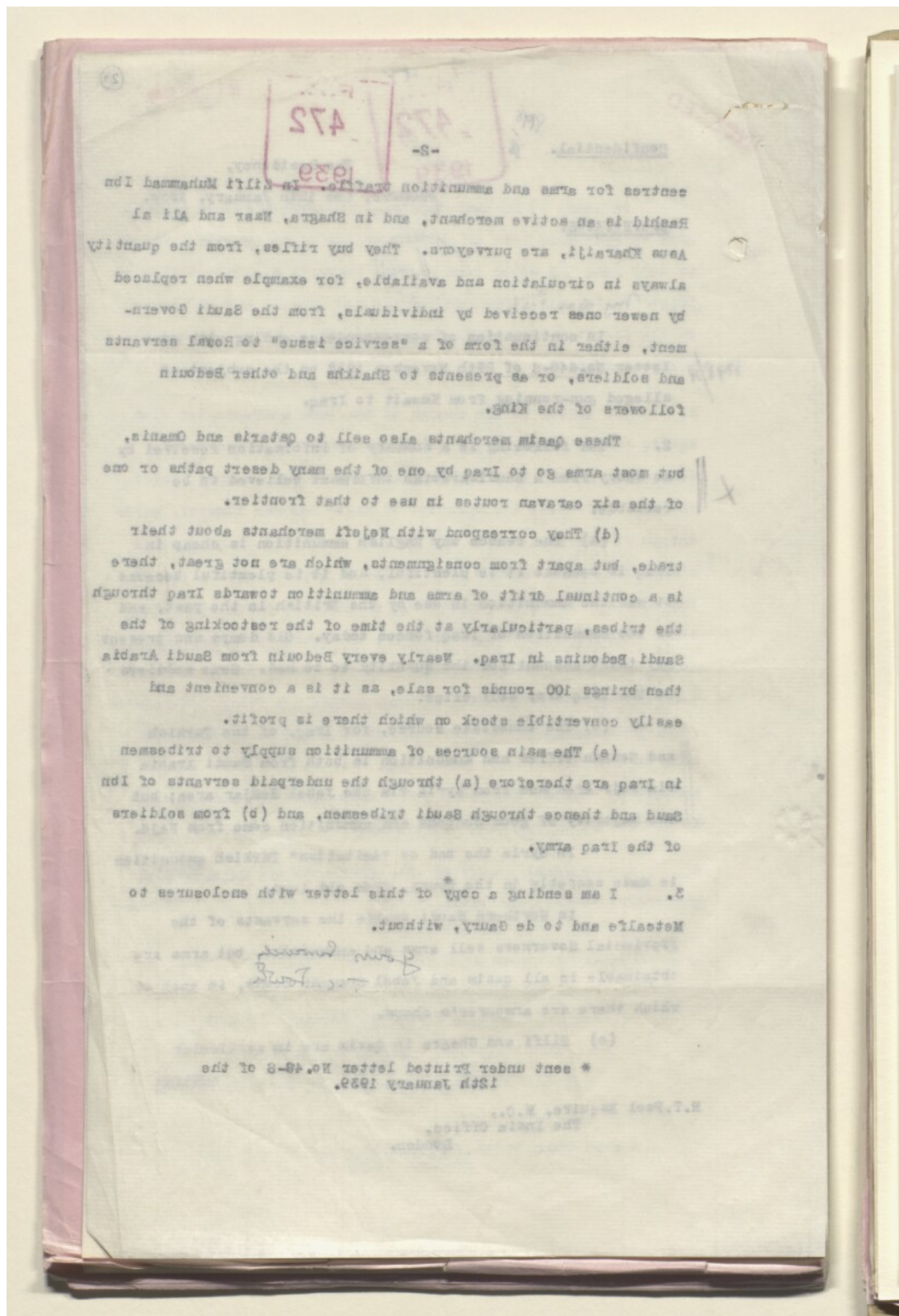
(e) The main sources of ammunition supply to tribesmen in Iraq are therefore (a) through the underpaid servants of Ibn Saud and thence through Saudi tribesmen, and (b) from soldiers of the Iraq army.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter with enclosures to Metcalfe and to de Gaury, without.

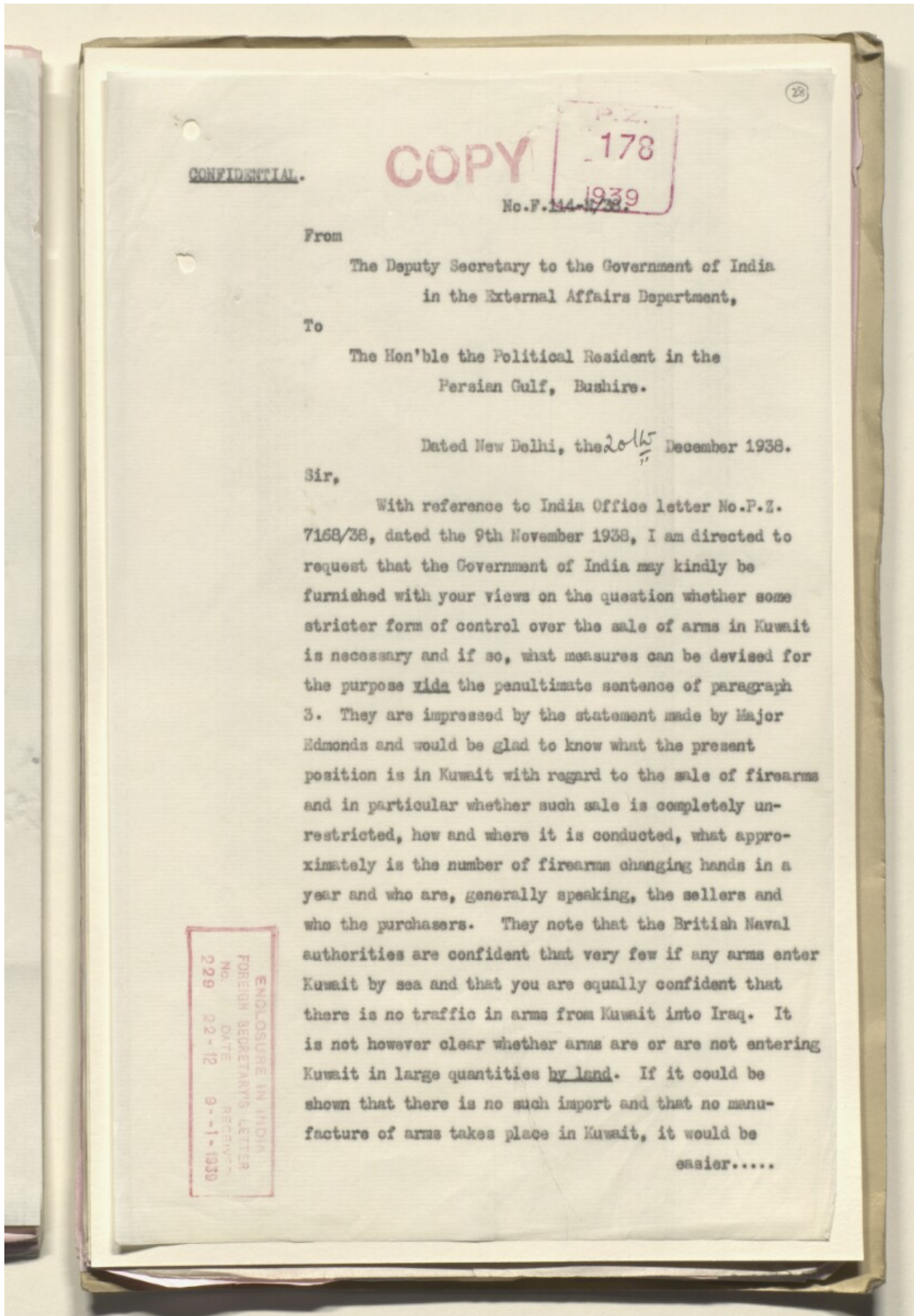
*Yours sincerely*  
*J. C. Fowth*

\* sent under Printed letter No. 48-S of the  
12th January 1939.









CONFIDENTIAL.

COPY

178

No.F.144-4/38

1939

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India  
in the External Affairs Department,

To

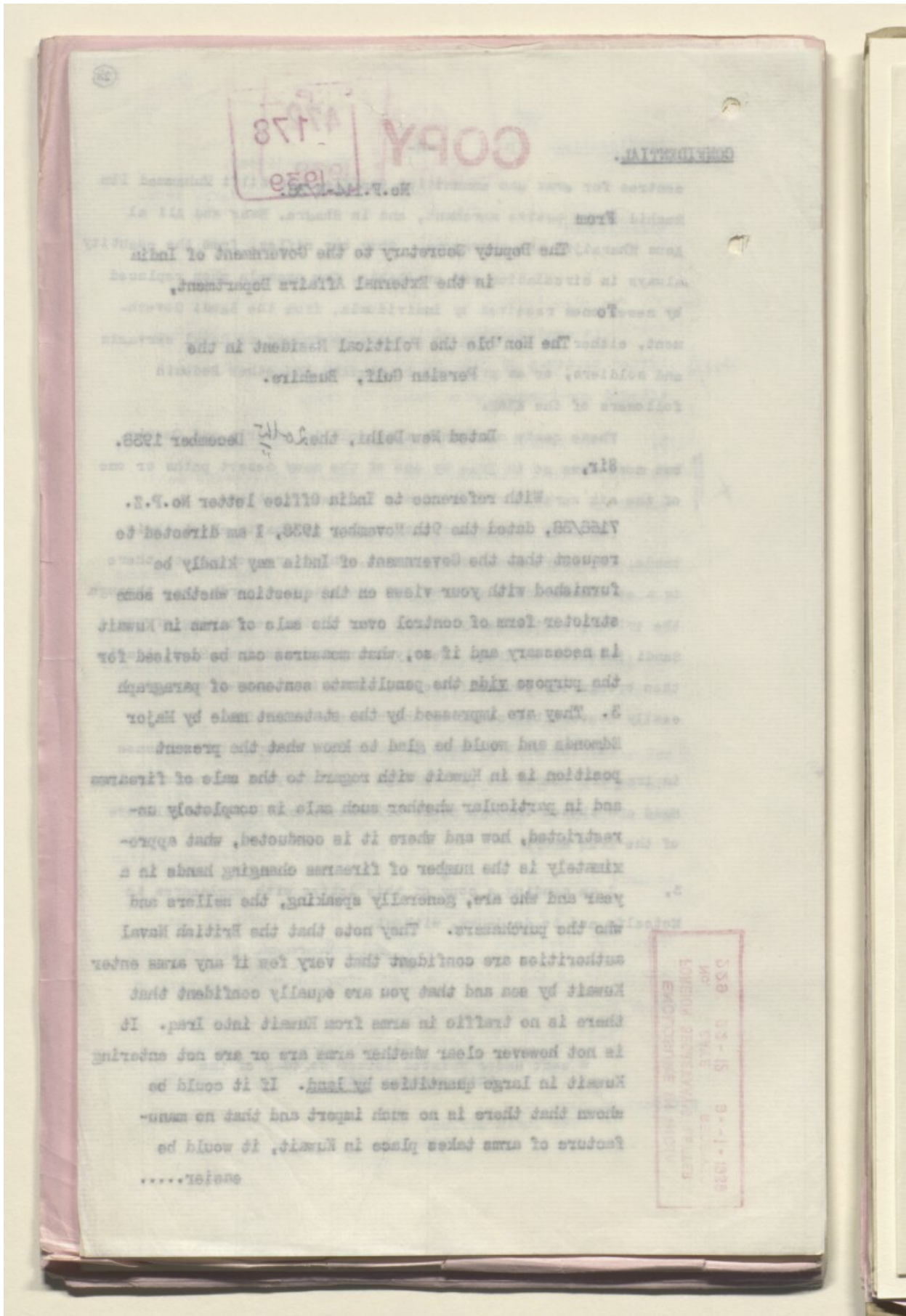
The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the  
Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Dated New Delhi, the 20<sup>th</sup> December 1938.

Sir,

With reference to India Office letter No.P.Z.  
7168/38, dated the 9th November 1938, I am directed to  
request that the Government of India may kindly be  
furnished with your views on the question whether some  
stricter form of control over the sale of arms in Kuwait  
is necessary and if so, what measures can be devised for  
the purpose vide the penultimate sentence of paragraph  
3. They are impressed by the statement made by Major  
Edmonds and would be glad to know what the present  
position is in Kuwait with regard to the sale of firearms  
and in particular whether such sale is completely un-  
restricted, how and where it is conducted, what approx-  
imately is the number of firearms changing hands in a  
year and who are, generally speaking, the sellers and  
who the purchasers. They note that the British Naval  
authorities are confident that very few if any arms enter  
Kuwait by sea and that you are equally confident that  
there is no traffic in arms from Kuwait into Iraq. It  
is not however clear whether arms are or are not entering  
Kuwait in large quantities by land. If it could be  
shown that there is no such import and that no manu-  
facture of arms takes place in Kuwait, it would be  
easier.....

ENCLOSURE IN INDIA  
FOREIGN SECRETARY'S LETTER  
No. 229  
DATE 22-12-38  
RECEIVED 9-1-1939







(29)  
-2-

easier to controvert the statement made by Mr. Edmonds that Kuwait had become a recognized market where Arabs went to purchase arms. The Government of India would be glad of your comments on this point.

2. The Government of India would also be glad to know whether in your opinion there are any measures that can usefully be suggested at present for adoption by the Sheikh of Kuwait with the object of reducing the extent of smuggling as a whole from Kuwait into Iraq vide the last sentence of paragraph 4 of the letter under reference. The Government of India are examining their records on this subject further and will let you know if they have any suggestions to make or if there are any particular points on which they require your advice.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to India Office.

I have the honour to be,

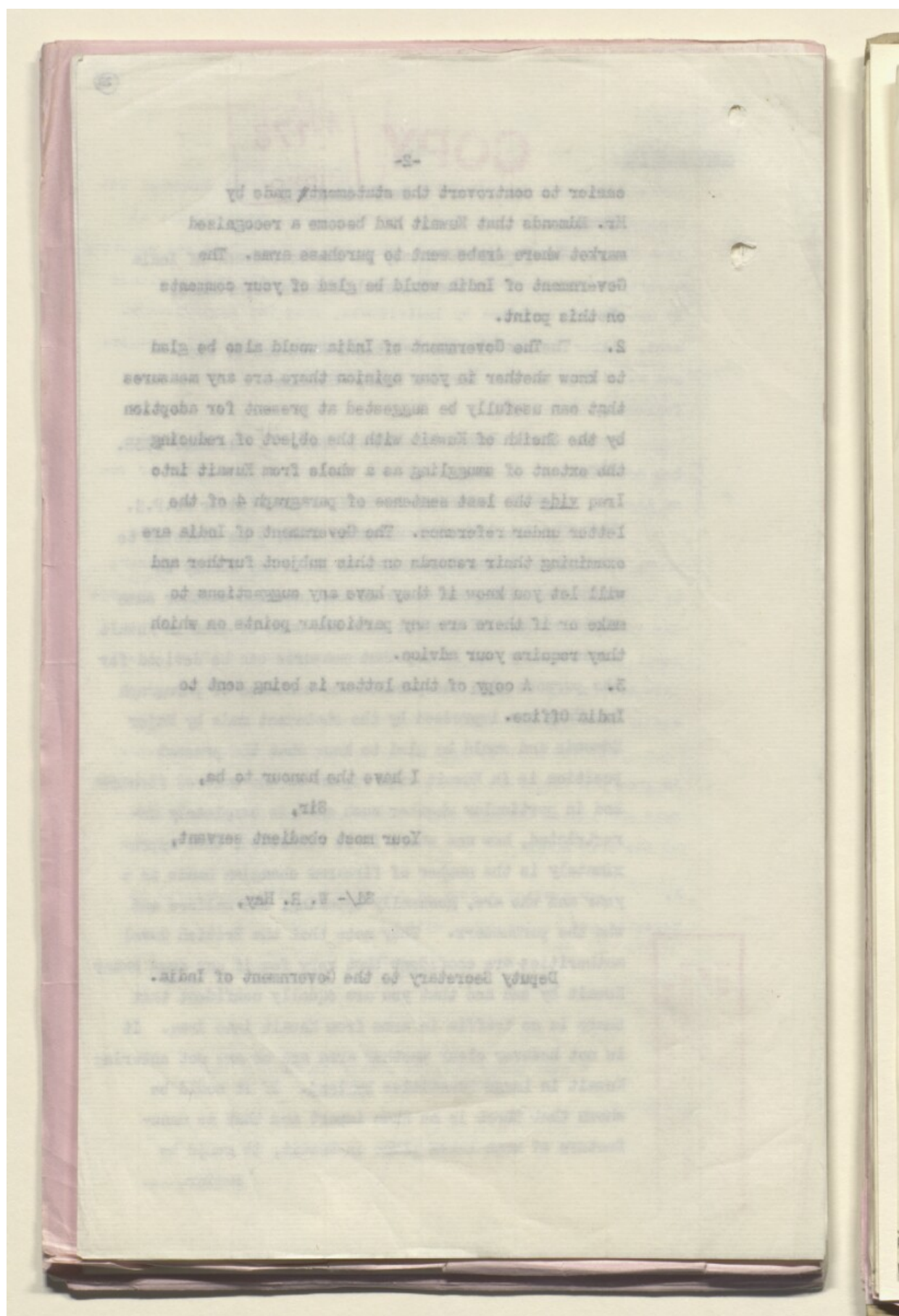
Sir,

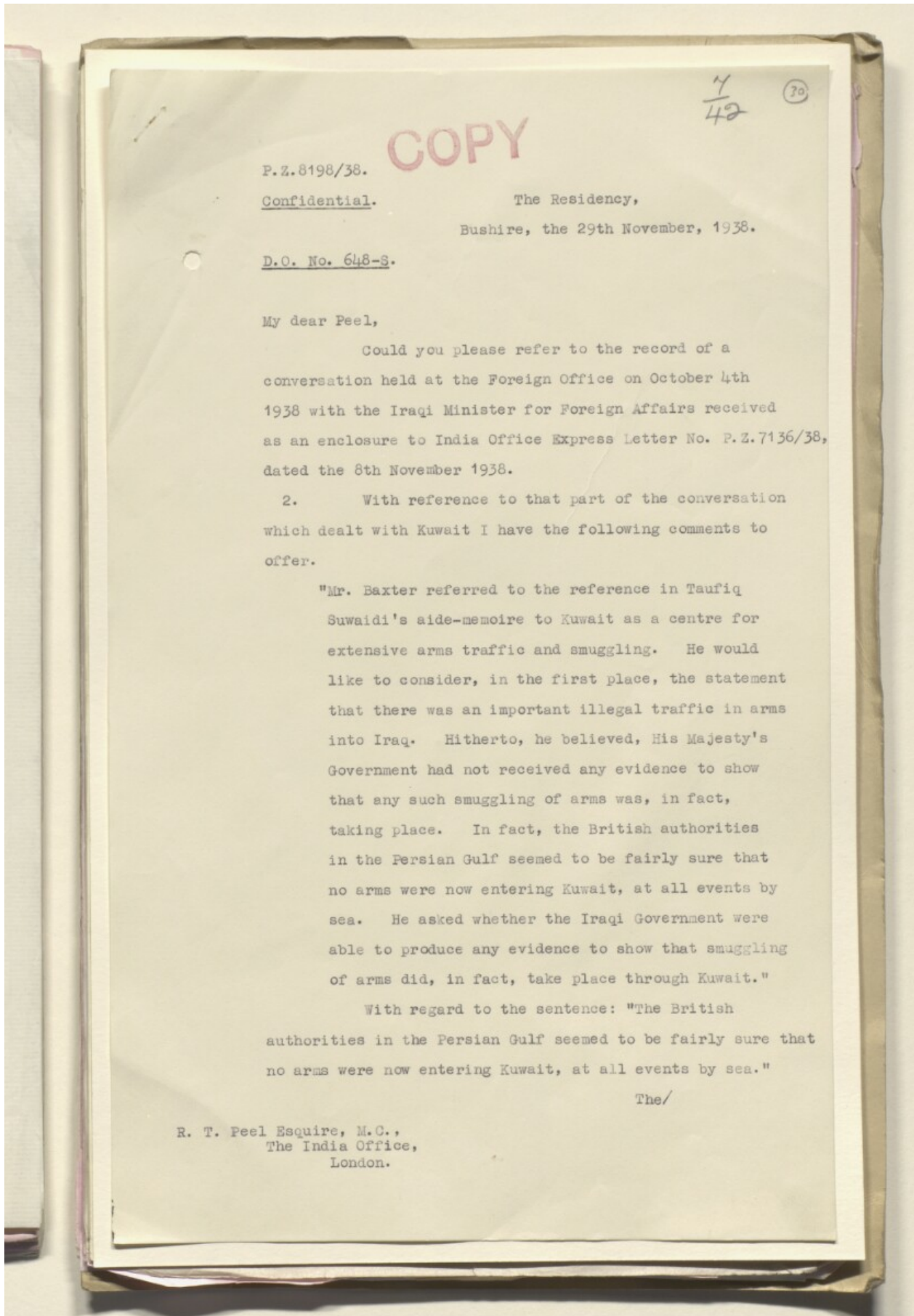
Your most obedient servant,

3d/- W. R. Hay,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.







P.Z.8198/38.

Confidential.

The Residency,  
Bushire, the 29th November, 1938.

D.O. No. 648-S.

My dear Peel,

Could you please refer to the record of a conversation held at the Foreign Office on October 4th 1938 with the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs received as an enclosure to India Office Express Letter No. P.Z.7136/38, dated the 8th November 1938.

2. With reference to that part of the conversation which dealt with Kuwait I have the following comments to offer.

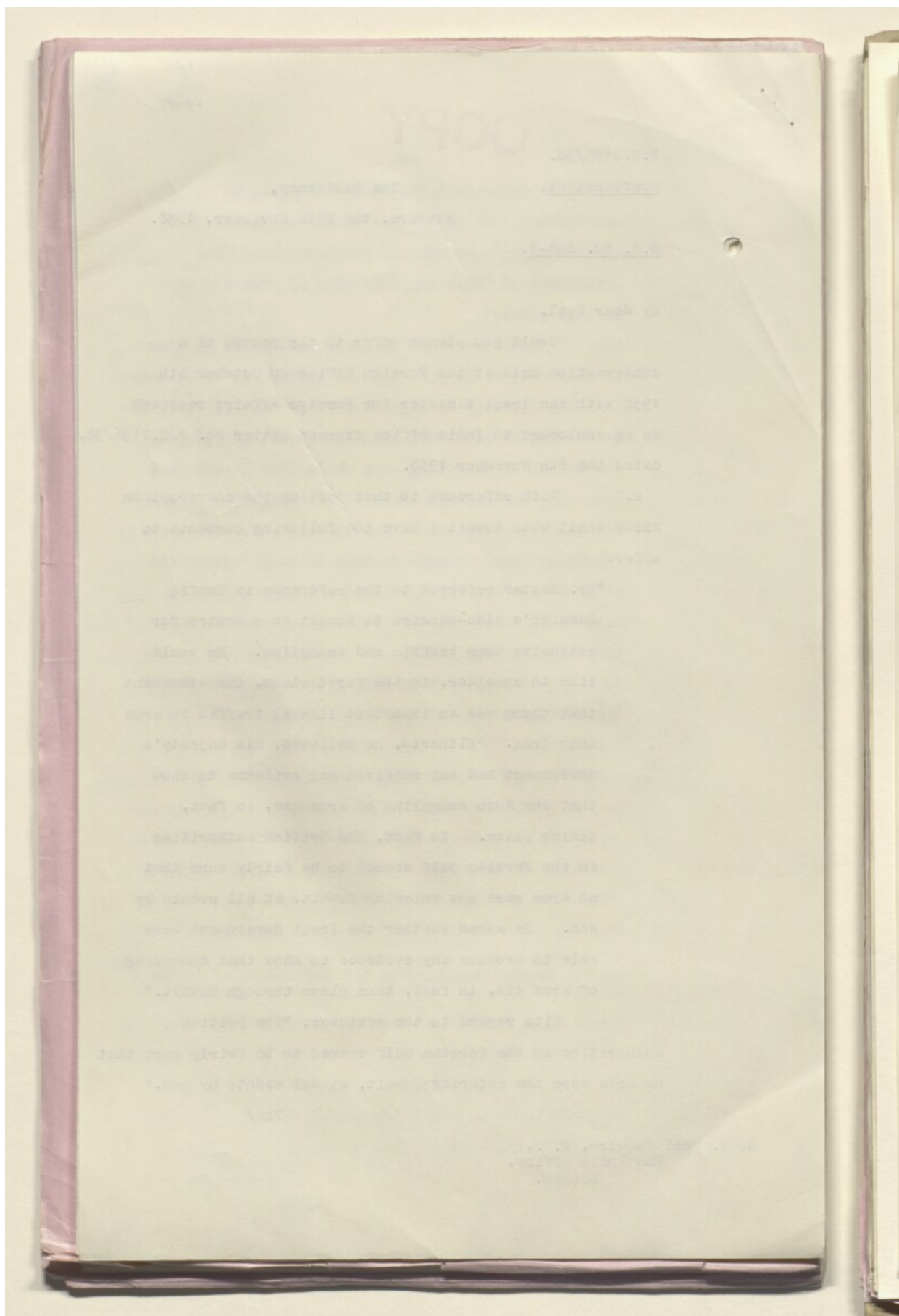
"Mr. Baxter referred to the reference in Taufiq Suwaidi's aide-memoire to Kuwait as a centre for extensive arms traffic and smuggling. He would like to consider, in the first place, the statement that there was an important illegal traffic in arms into Iraq. Hitherto, he believed, His Majesty's Government had not received any evidence to show that any such smuggling of arms was, in fact, taking place. In fact, the British authorities in the Persian Gulf seemed to be fairly sure that no arms were now entering Kuwait, at all events by sea. He asked whether the Iraqi Government were able to produce any evidence to show that smuggling of arms did, in fact, take place through Kuwait."

With regard to the sentence: "The British authorities in the Persian Gulf seemed to be fairly sure that no arms were now entering Kuwait, at all events by sea."

The/

R. T. Peel Esquire, M.C.,  
The India Office,  
London.







(31)

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The British authorities in question consist of the Senior Naval Officer and myself. The Senior Naval Officer was certain that very few if any arms enter Kuwait by sea - vide Admiralty letter to the Foreign Office, No. M.03097/38, dated the 4th August 1938. I am equally certain that no arms are smuggled from Kuwait to Iraq by land - vide my Express Letter No. 427-8, dated the 21st July 1938, to the Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq, especially paragraph 7 in which I summed up the situation. In these circumstances could not the Gulf case have been put a little stronger? What I feel is that unless our case is put strongly the Iraqi Government will continue to return to the charge with their customary vague accusations for which they can produce no proof.

3. "Major Edmonds added that, to his personal knowledge, as a result of his conversations with Iraqi tribesmen, it was quite a frequent occurrence for an Arab to buy a rifle in Kuwait for £5 or £6 and to travel with it to Iraq, where he would sell it for about twice that amount. The fact was that Kuwait had become a recognised market where Arabs, whether would-be smugglers or not, went to purchase arms. He was quite prepared to believe that the British authorities in the Persian Gulf were right when they said that no arms entered Kuwait by sea, but it was absolutely certain that somehow or other these arms were available for sale in Kuwait."

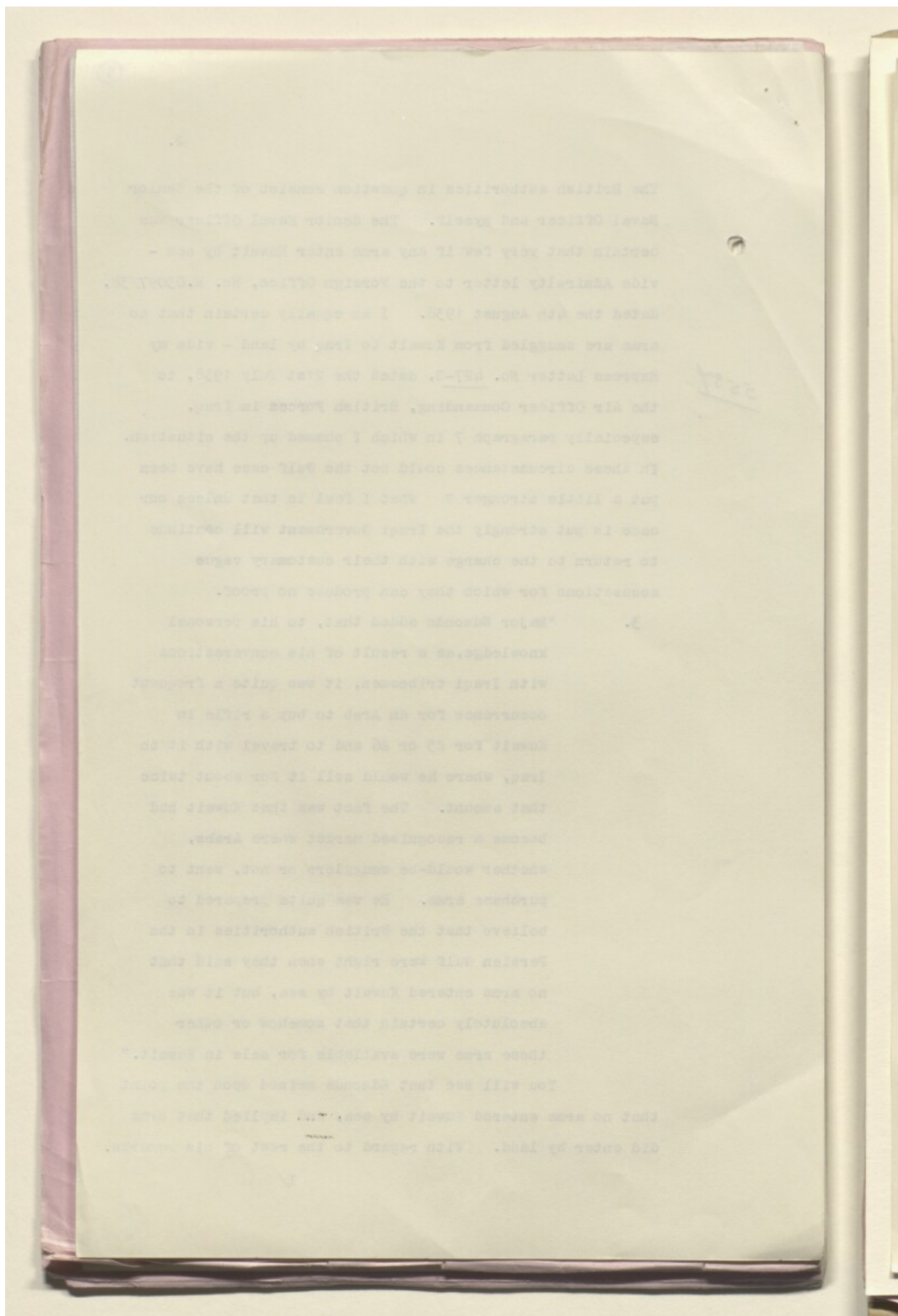
You will see that Edmonds seized upon the point that no arms entered Kuwait by sea, and implied that arms did enter by land. With regard to the rest of his remarks.

I/





Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Koweit [Kuwait] into Iraq'  
[31v] (62/237)





(32)

3.

I have no doubt that he is perfectly correct in stating that an odd rifle or two can now and then be picked up at Kuwait. It is not this, however, against which the Iraqis complain but against a regular traffic on a large scale from Kuwait. Edmonds' implication that Kuwait town is now a thriving arms traffic centre is entirely without foundation.

4. With regard to other forms of smuggling.

"Mr. Baxter informed His Excellency that His Majesty's Government had, in fact, received an expert report, from which it appeared that the Iraqi authorities might be able to give smuggling from Kuwait a decisive blow if they were to take certain additional measures, e.g., control by aeroplanes and armoured cars, together with drastic measures against those organisations or individuals in Iraq who must be assisting in smuggling on such a large scale as had been suggested by His Excellency."

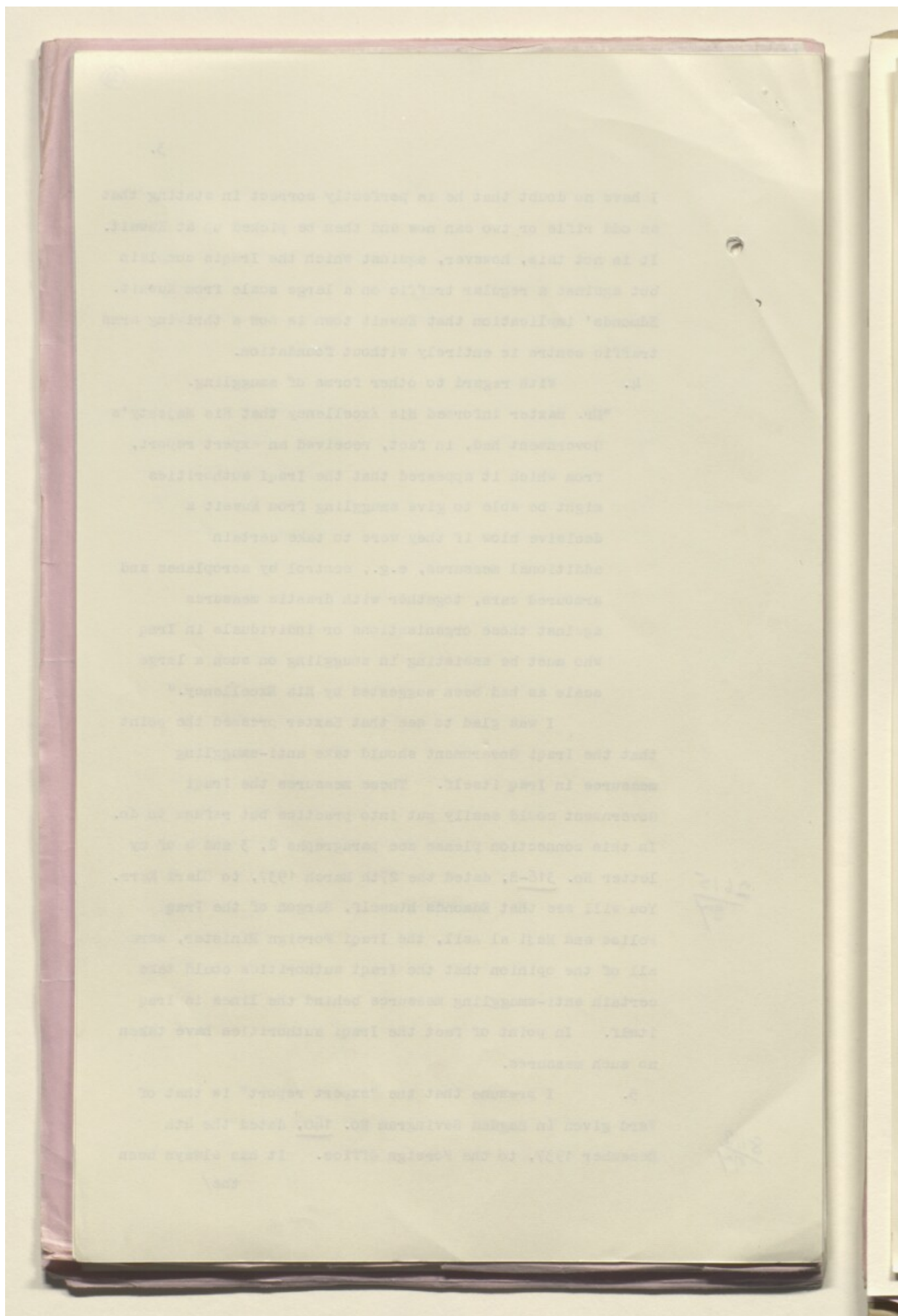
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I was glad to see that Baxter pressed the point that the Iraqi Government should take anti-smuggling measures in Iraq itself. These measures the Iraqi Government could easily put into practice but refuse to do. In this connection please see paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of my letter No. 316-S, dated the 27th March 1937, to Clark Kerr. You will see that Edmonds himself, Sargon of the Iraq Police and Najî al Asil, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, were all of the opinion that the Iraqi authorities could take certain anti-smuggling measures behind the lines in Iraq itself. In point of fact the Iraqi authorities have taken no such measures.

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5. I presume that the "expert report" is that of Ward given in Bagdad Savingram No. 140, dated the 4th December 1937, to the Foreign Office. It has always been the/  
the/







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the line of the Iraqi Government that they could not stop the smuggling except by measures which are prohibitively expensive. In this connection please see paragraph 13 of my letter No. 864-S, dated the 11th November 1935, to the India Office. The position as it appears to me is that the Iraqi Government can well deal with the smuggling by the employment of a few armed cars, as they are doing at present, assisted by measures behind the lines which they refuse to put into operation.

6. I must confess that after our unfortunate experience over the tea question I am inclined to suspect the Iraqi Government of exaggeration in their statements of losses from smuggling. In that case the Iraqi Government stated that the import of "smuggled" tea from India into Iraq via Kuwait was "paralysing" the tea trade in Iraq. We accordingly took the matter up with the Shaikh of Kuwait who imposed an embargo on the tea in question into his State. The Iraqi Government took no steps whatever to prevent the tea entering into Iraq. The consequence was that dhows instead of landing tea at Kuwait merely landed it at Basra. By his embargo both the Shaikh of Kuwait and ourselves were unpopular locally (vide correspondence ending with my letter No. 503, dated the 18th March 1938 to Metcalfe).

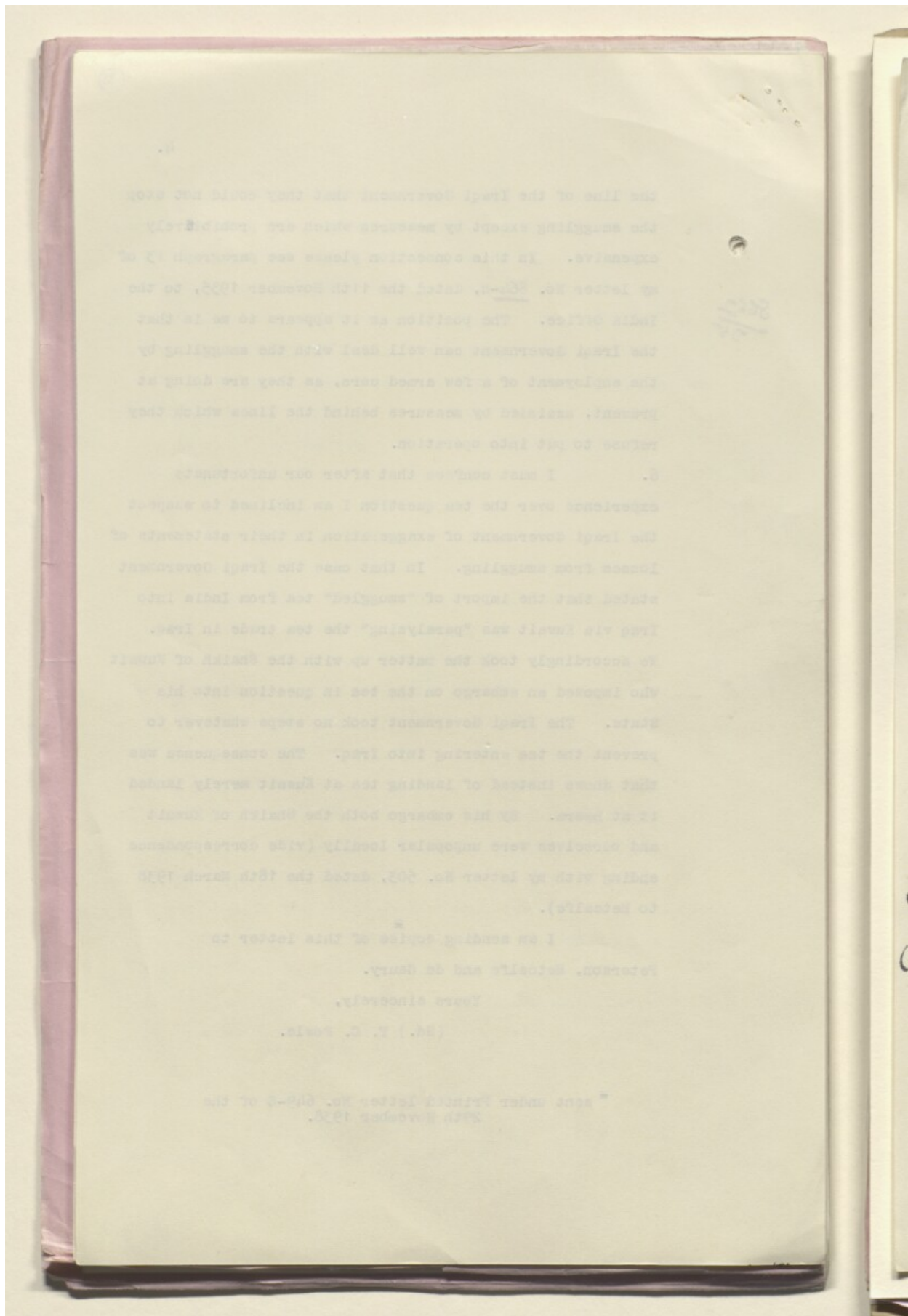
\*  
I am sending copies of this letter to  
Peterson, Metcalfe and de Gaury.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) T. C. Fowle.

\* sent under Printed letter No. 649-S of the  
29th November 1938.







COPY

INDIA OFFICE,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

P.Z.7168/38

9th November, 1938

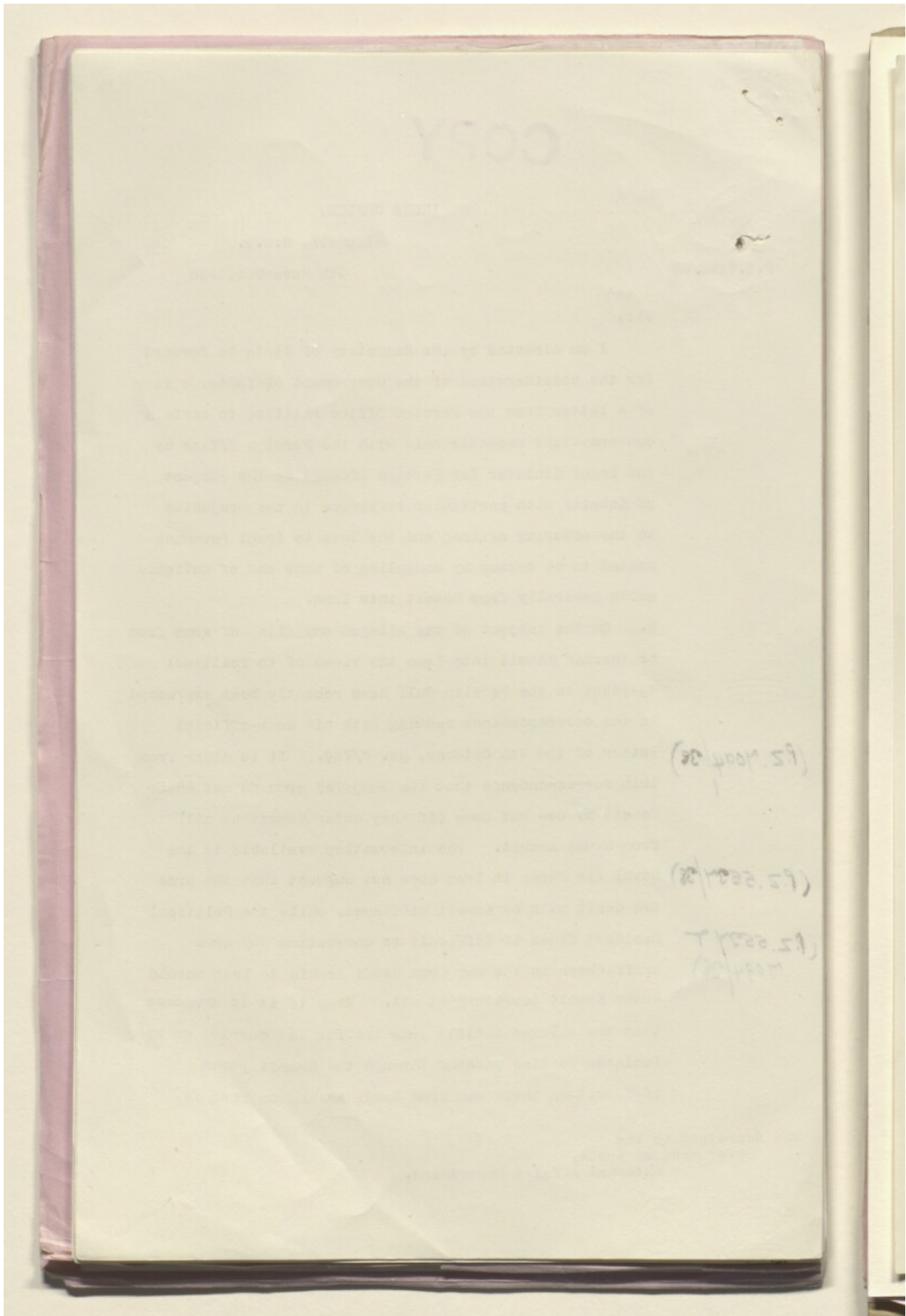
Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State to forward for the consideration of the Government of India, a copy of a letter from the Foreign Office relative to certain conversations recently held with the Foreign Office by the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of Koweit, with particular reference to the prejudice to the security of Iraq and the loss to Iraqi revenues stated to be caused by smuggling of arms and of dutiable goods generally from Koweit into Iraq.

2. On the subject of the alleged smuggling of arms from or through Koweit into Iraq the views of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf have recently been expressed in the correspondence resting with his demi-official letter of the 7th October, No. C/744. It is clear from this correspondence that the smuggled arms do not enter Koweit by sea but come (if they enter Koweit at all) from Saudi Arabia. The information available to the Royal Air Force in Iraq does not suggest that the arms are dealt with by Koweit middlemen, while the Political Resident finds it difficult to understand why arms traffickers on the way from Saudi Arabia to Iraq should enter Koweit territory at all. Even if it is the case that the alleged illicit arms traffic is carried on by isolated parties passing through the desert parts of Koweit on their way from Saudi Arabia to Iraq it

The Secretary to the  
Government of India,  
External Affairs Department.





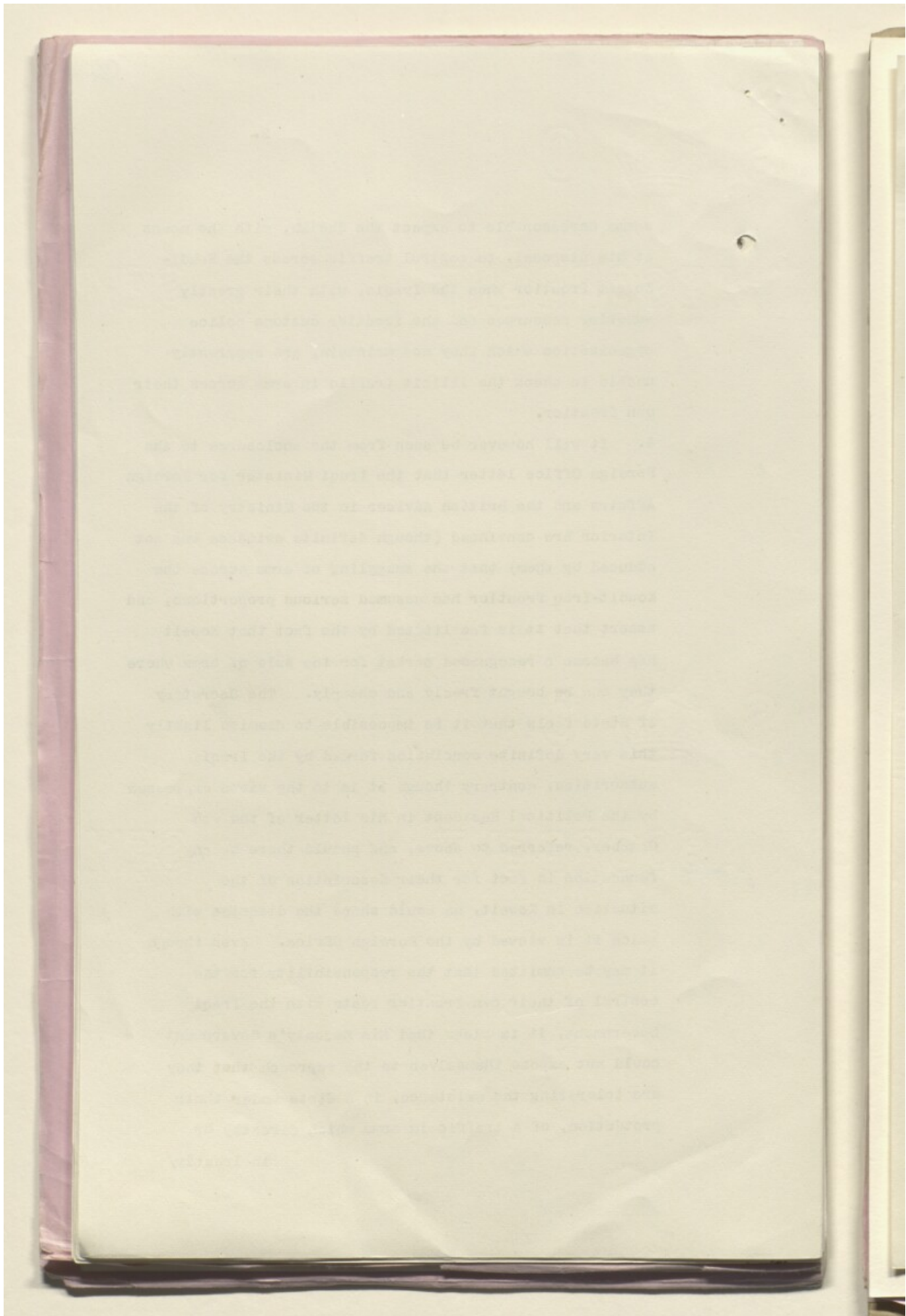


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2.

seems unreasonable to expect the Sheikh, with the means at his disposal, to control traffic across the Saudi-Koweit frontier when the Iraqis, with their greatly superior resources and the frontier customs police organisation which they now maintain, are apparently unable to check the illicit traffic in arms across their own frontier.

3. It will however be seen from the enclosures to the Foreign Office letter that the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs and the British Adviser in the Ministry of the Interior are convinced (though definite evidence was not adduced by them) that the smuggling of arms across the Koweit-Iraq frontier has assumed serious proportions, and assert that it is facilitated by the fact that Koweit has become a recognised market for the sale of arms where they can be bought freely and cheaply. The Secretary of State feels that it is impossible to dismiss lightly this very definite conclusion formed by the Iraqi authorities, contrary though it is to the views expressed by the Political Resident in his letter of the 4th October, referred to above, and should there be any foundation in fact for their description of the situation in Koweit, he would share the disquiet with which it is viewed by the Foreign Office. Even though it may be admitted that the responsibility for the control of their own frontier rests with the Iraqi Government, it is clear that His Majesty's Government could not expose themselves to the reproach that they are tolerating the existence, in a State under their protection, of a traffic in arms which directly or indirectly/



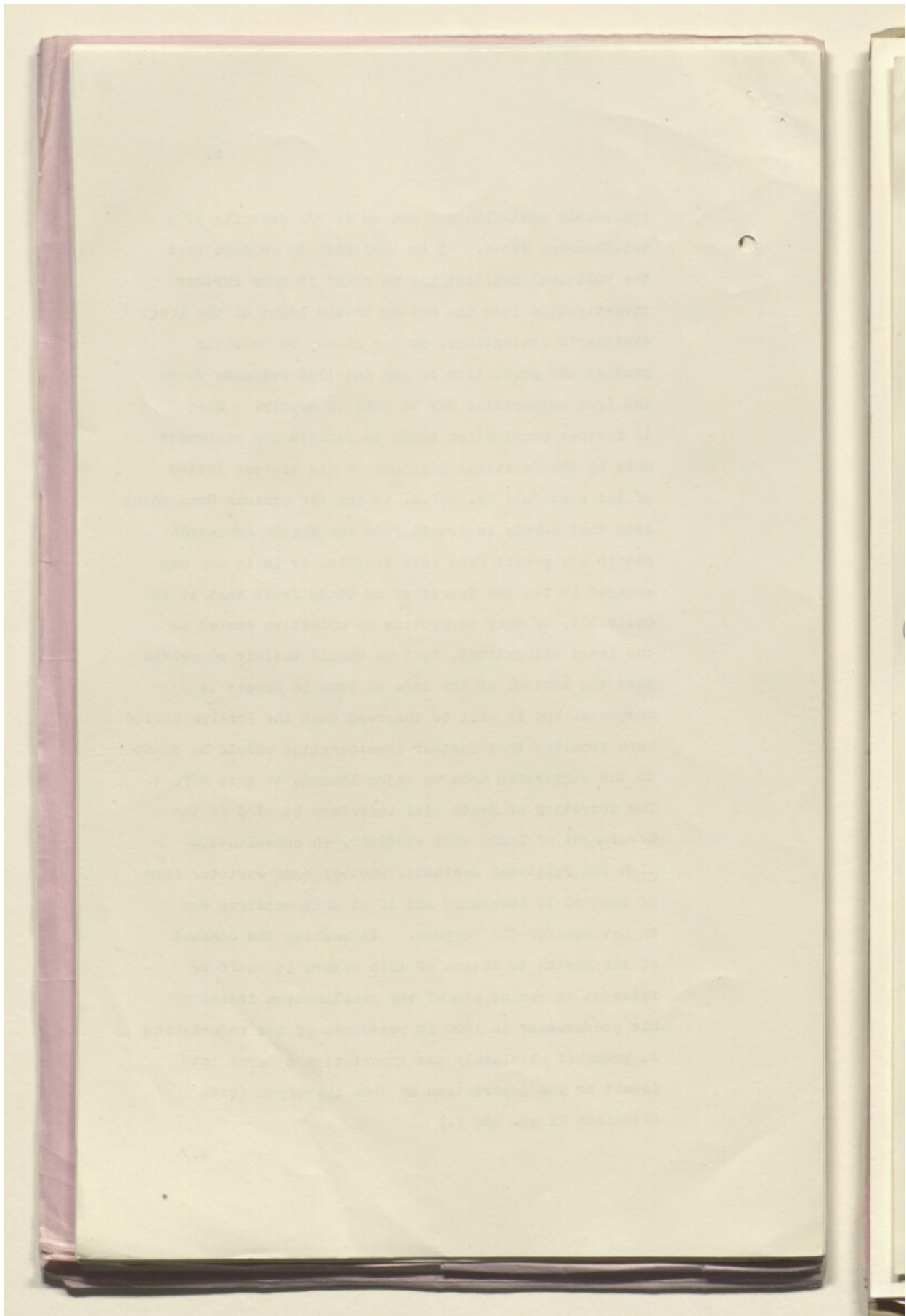


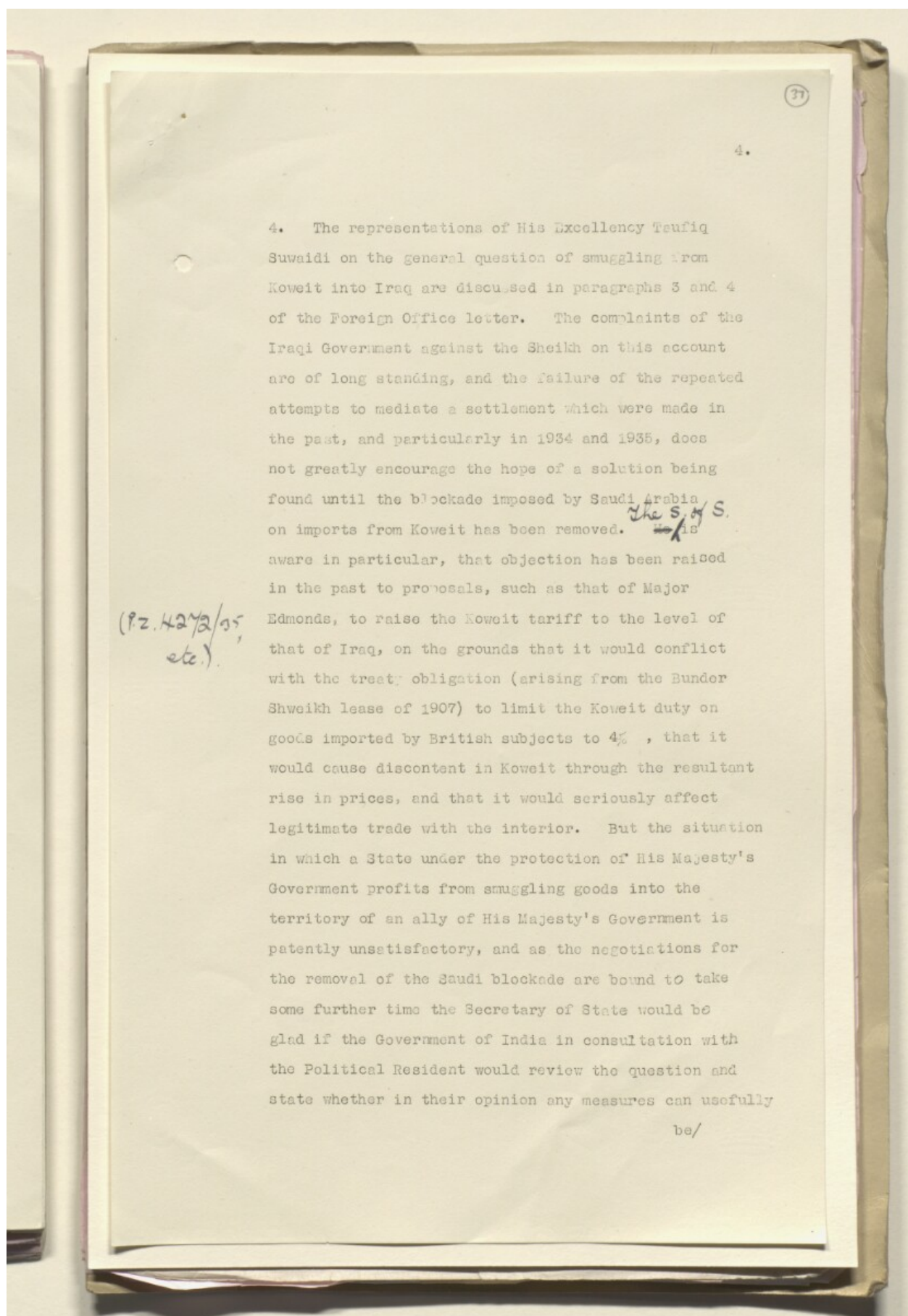


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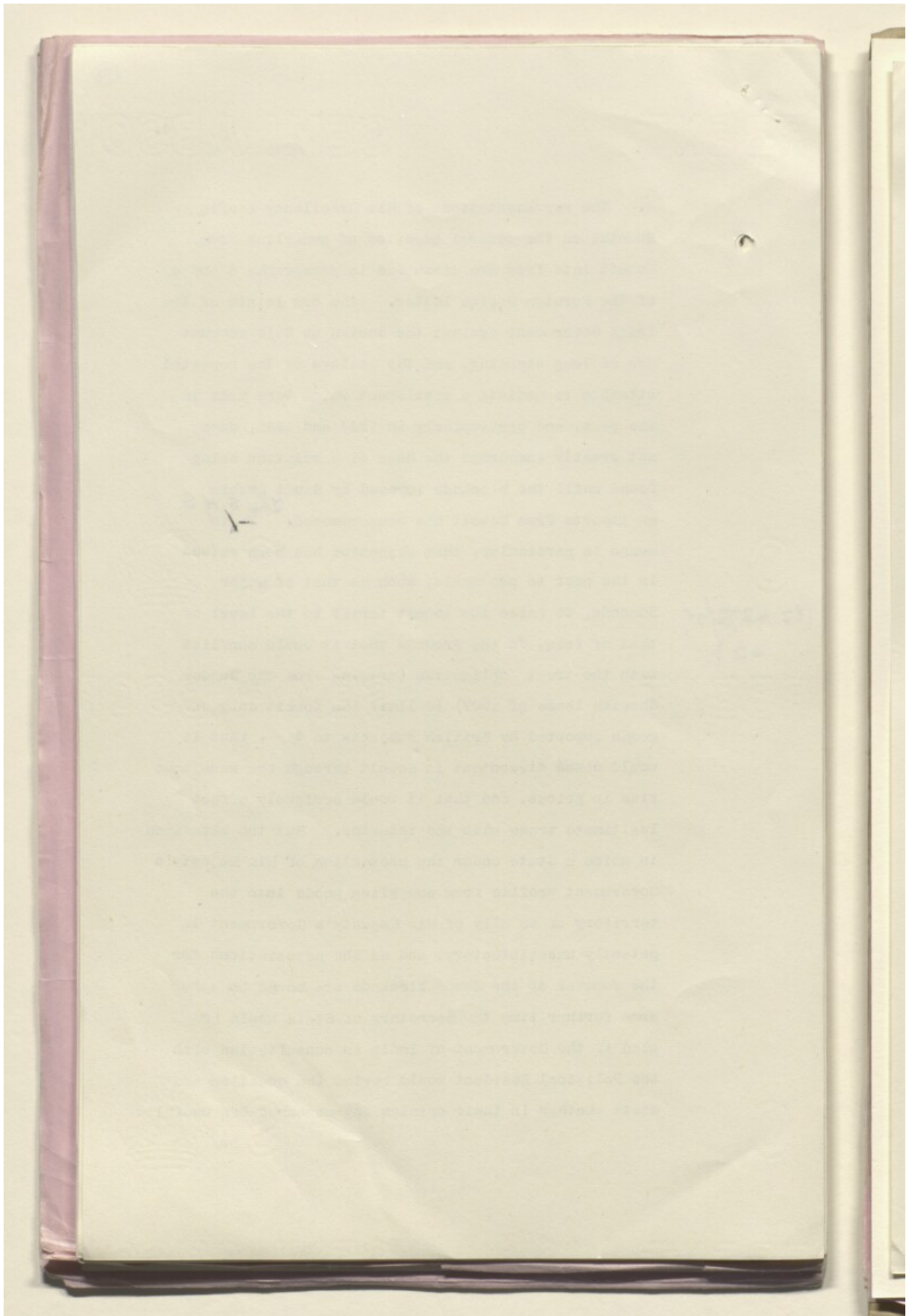
indirectly contributes a menace to the security of a neighbouring State. I am therefore to request that the Political Resident may be asked to make further investigation into the matter in the light of the Iraqi Minister's contentions, so far as may be possible pending the production of any detailed evidence which the Iraq authorities may be able to supply. Even if further examination tends to confirm the statement made by the Political Resident in his express letter of the 21st July No. 427.S. to the Air Officer Commanding Iraq that nobody in Koweit from the Sheikh downwards, obtain any profit from this traffic, or is in any way engaged in it, the Secretary of State feels that it is desirable, if only to provide an effective answer to the Iraqi allegations, that we should satisfy ourselves that the control of the sale of arms in Koweit is adequate, and it will be observed that the Foreign Office have promised that further consideration should be given to the suggestion made by Major Edmonds to this effect. The Secretary of State will therefore be glad if the Government of India will consider, in consultation with the Political Resident, whether some stricter form of control is necessary and if so what measures can be devised for the purpose. In seeking the consent of the Sheikh to action of this nature it would be relevant to remind him of the proclamation issued by his predecessor in 1900 in pursuance of his undertaking to prohibit absolutely the importation of arms into Koweit or the exportation of arms therefrom (vide Aitchison XI pp. 262 f.)

4./











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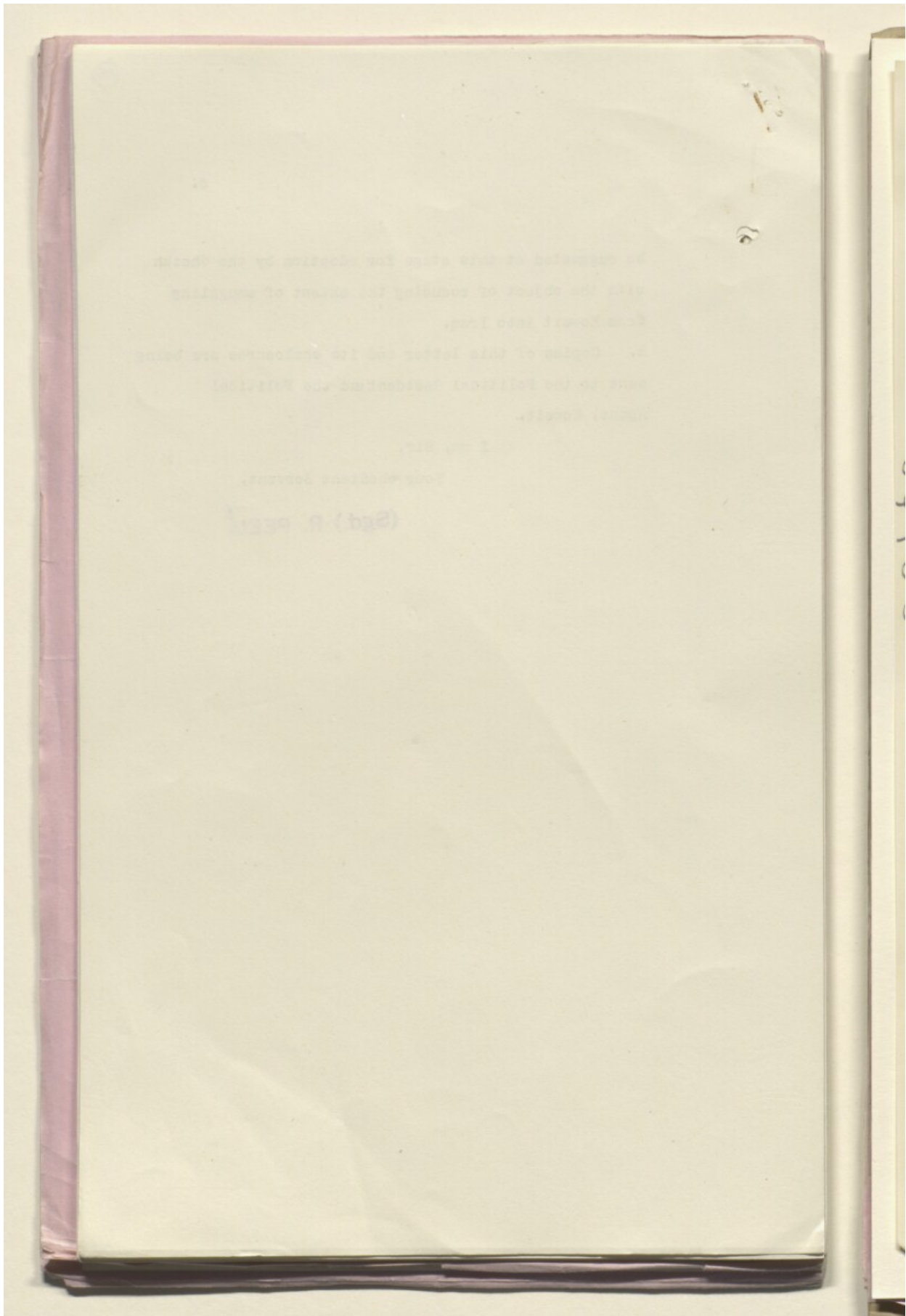
be suggested at this stage for adoption by the Sheikh  
with the object of reducing the extent of smuggling  
from Koweit into Iraq.

5. Copies of this letter and its enclosures are being  
sent to the Political Resident and the Political  
Agent, Koweit.

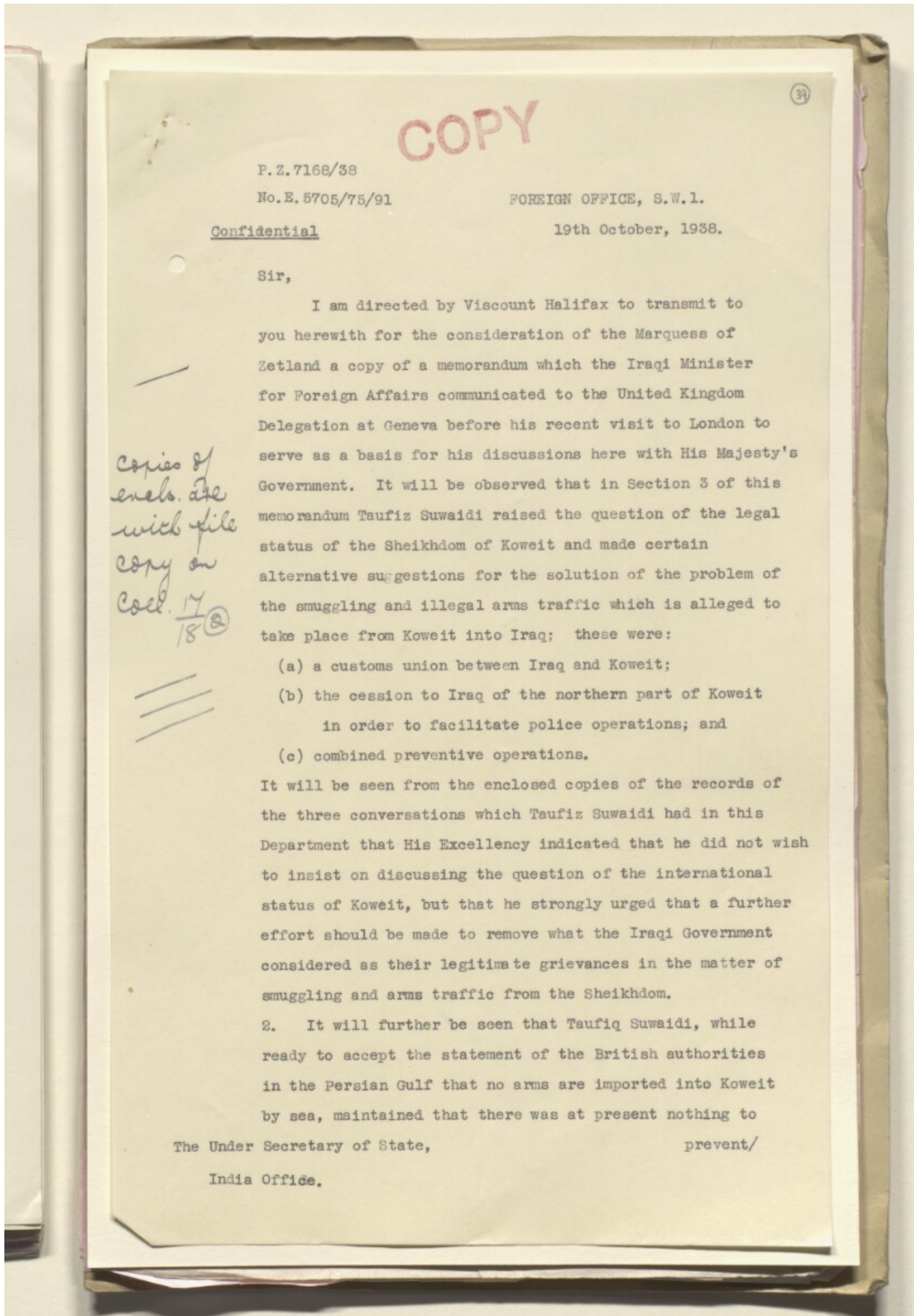
I am, Sir,

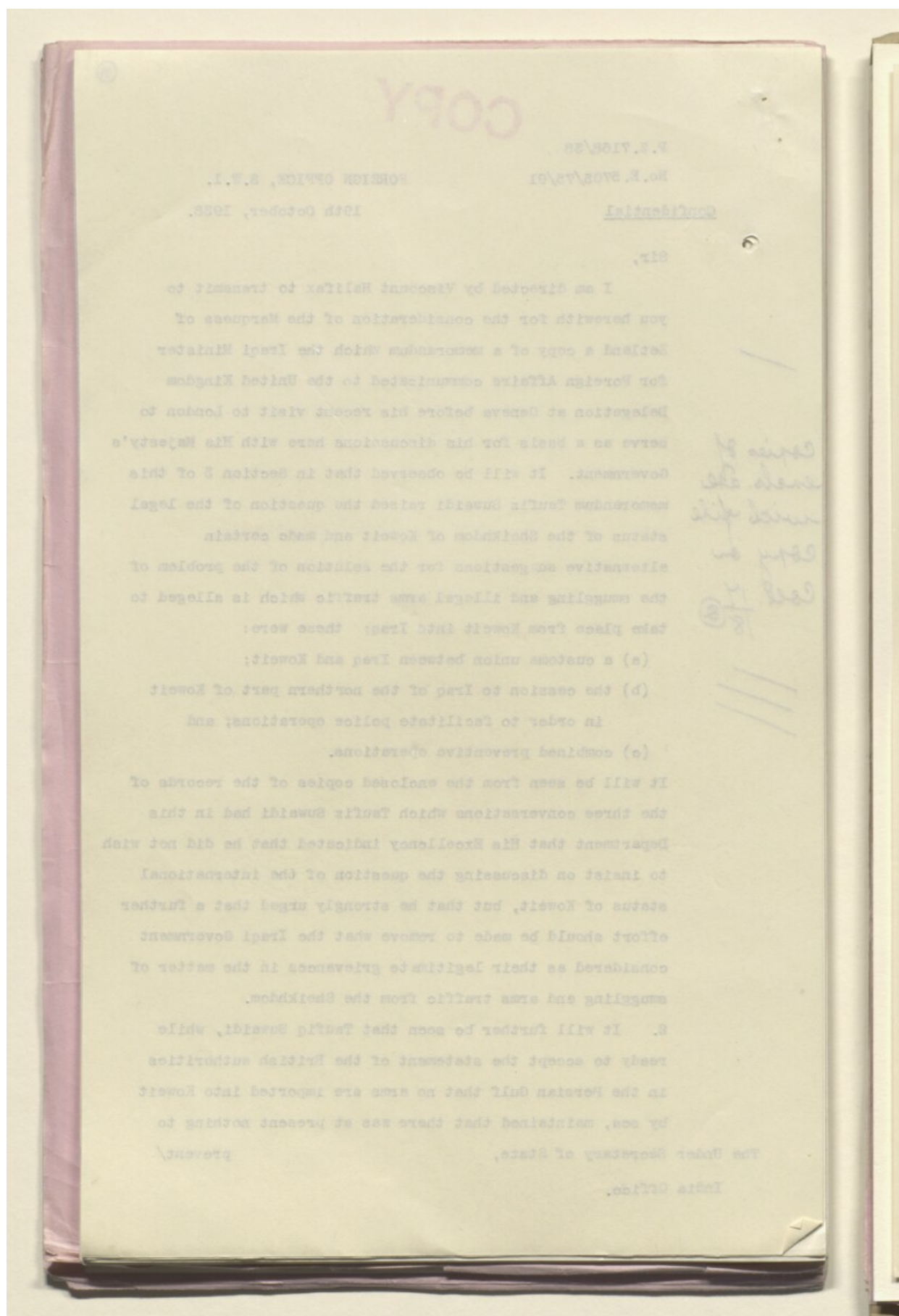
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) R. PEEL













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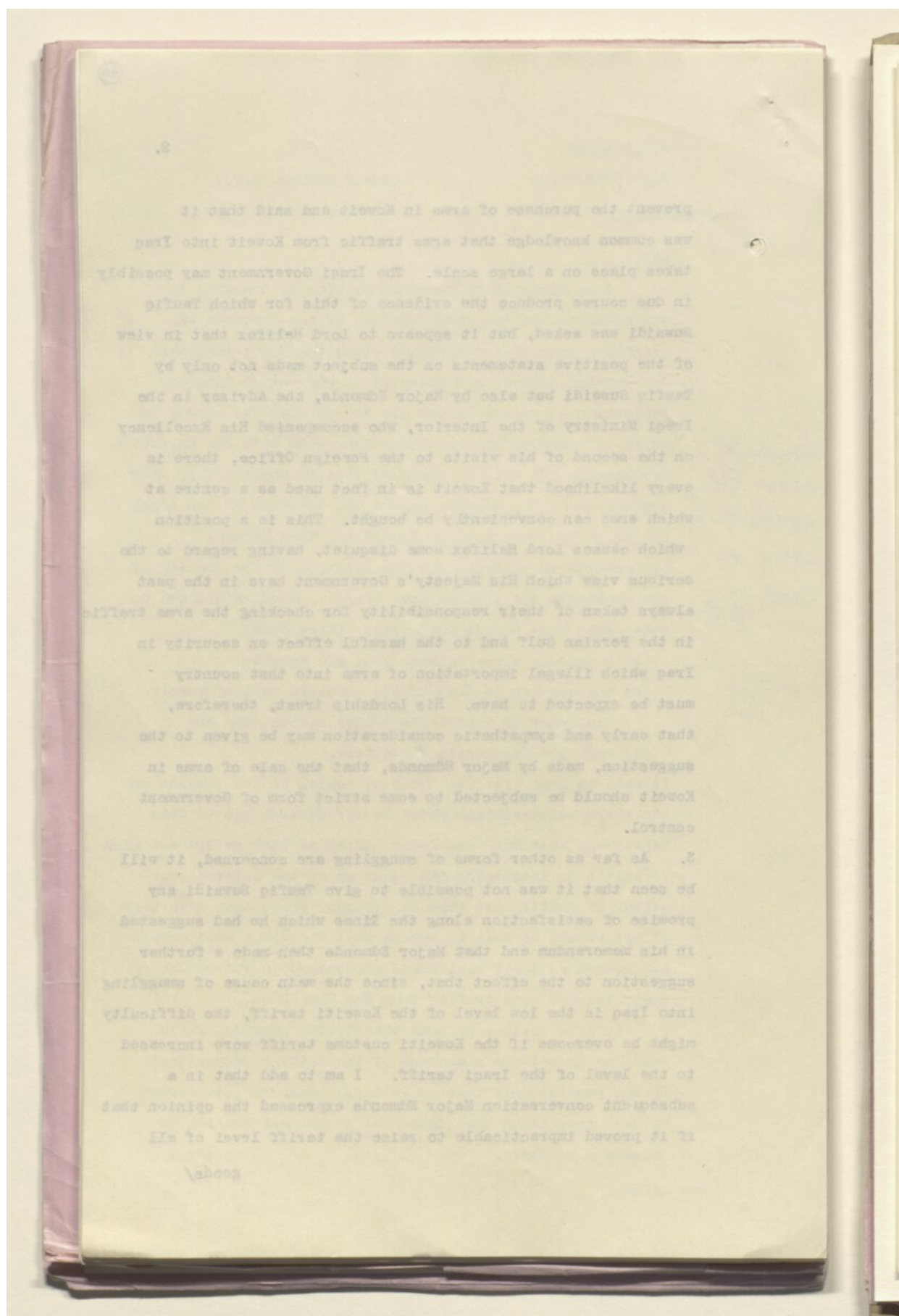
2.

prevent the purchase of arms in Koweit and said that it was common knowledge that arms traffic from Koweit into Iraq takes place on a large scale. The Iraqi Government may possibly in due course produce the evidence of this for which Taufiq Suwaidi was asked, but it appears to Lord Halifax that in view of the positive statements on the subject made not only by Taufiq Suwaidi but also by Major Edmonds, the Adviser in the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior, who accompanied His Excellency on the second of his visits to the Foreign Office, there is every likelihood that Koweit is in fact used as a centre at which arms can conveniently be bought. This is a position which causes Lord Halifax some disquiet, having regard to the serious view which His Majesty's Government have in the past always taken of their responsibility for checking the arms traffic in the Persian Gulf and to the harmful effect on security in Iraq which illegal importation of arms into that country must be expected to have. His Lordship trusts, therefore, that early and sympathetic consideration may be given to the suggestion, made by Major Edmonds, that the sale of arms in Koweit should be subjected to some strict form of Government control.

3. As far as other forms of smuggling are concerned, it will be seen that it was not possible to give Taufiq Suwaidi any promise of satisfaction along the lines which he had suggested in his memorandum and that Major Edmonds then made a further suggestion to the effect that, since the main cause of smuggling into Iraq is the low level of the Koweiti tariff, the difficulty might be overcome if the Koweiti customs tariff were increased to the level of the Iraqi tariff. I am to add that in a subsequent conversation Major Edmonds expressed the opinion that if it proved impracticable to raise the tariff level of all

goods/





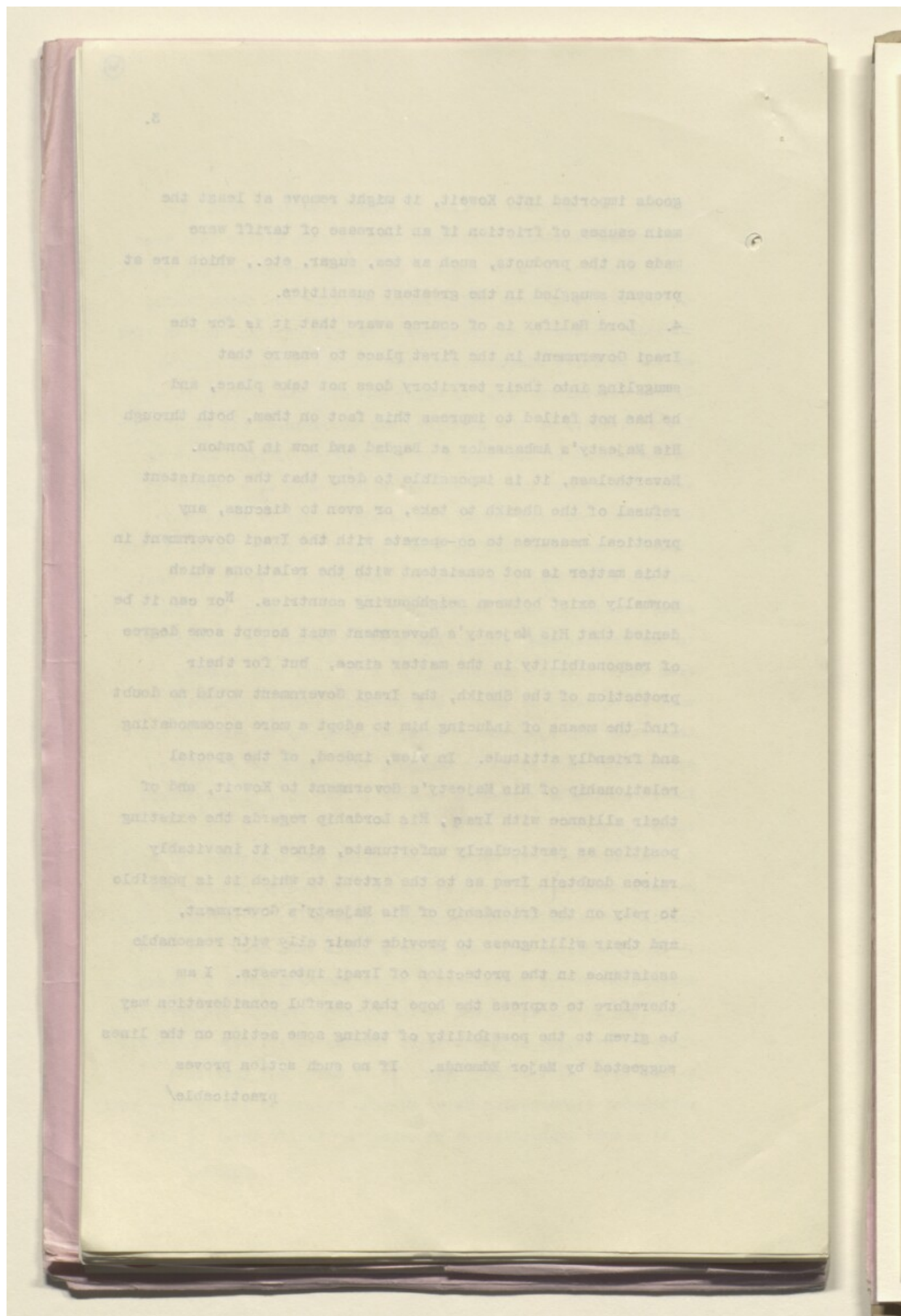


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goods imported into Koweit, it might remove at least the main causes of friction if an increase of tariff were made on the products, such as tea, sugar, etc., which are at present smuggled in the greatest quantities.

4. Lord Halifax is of course aware that it is for the Iraqi Government in the first place to ensure that smuggling into their territory does not take place, and he has not failed to impress this fact on them, both through His Majesty's Ambassador at Bagdad and now in London. Nevertheless, it is impossible to deny that the consistent refusal of the Sheikh to take, or even to discuss, any practical measures to co-operate with the Iraqi Government in this matter is not consistent with the relations which normally exist between neighbouring countries. Nor can it be denied that His Majesty's Government must accept some degree of responsibility in the matter since, but for their protection of the Sheikh, the Iraqi Government would no doubt find the means of inducing him to adopt a more accommodating and friendly attitude. In view, indeed, of the special relationship of His Majesty's Government to Koweit, and of their alliance with Iraq, His Lordship regards the existing position as particularly unfortunate, since it inevitably raises doubts in Iraq as to the extent to which it is possible to rely on the friendship of His Majesty's Government, and their willingness to provide their ally with reasonable assistance in the protection of Iraqi interests. I am therefore to express the hope that careful consideration may be given to the possibility of taking some action on the lines suggested by Major Edmonds. If no such action proves practicable/









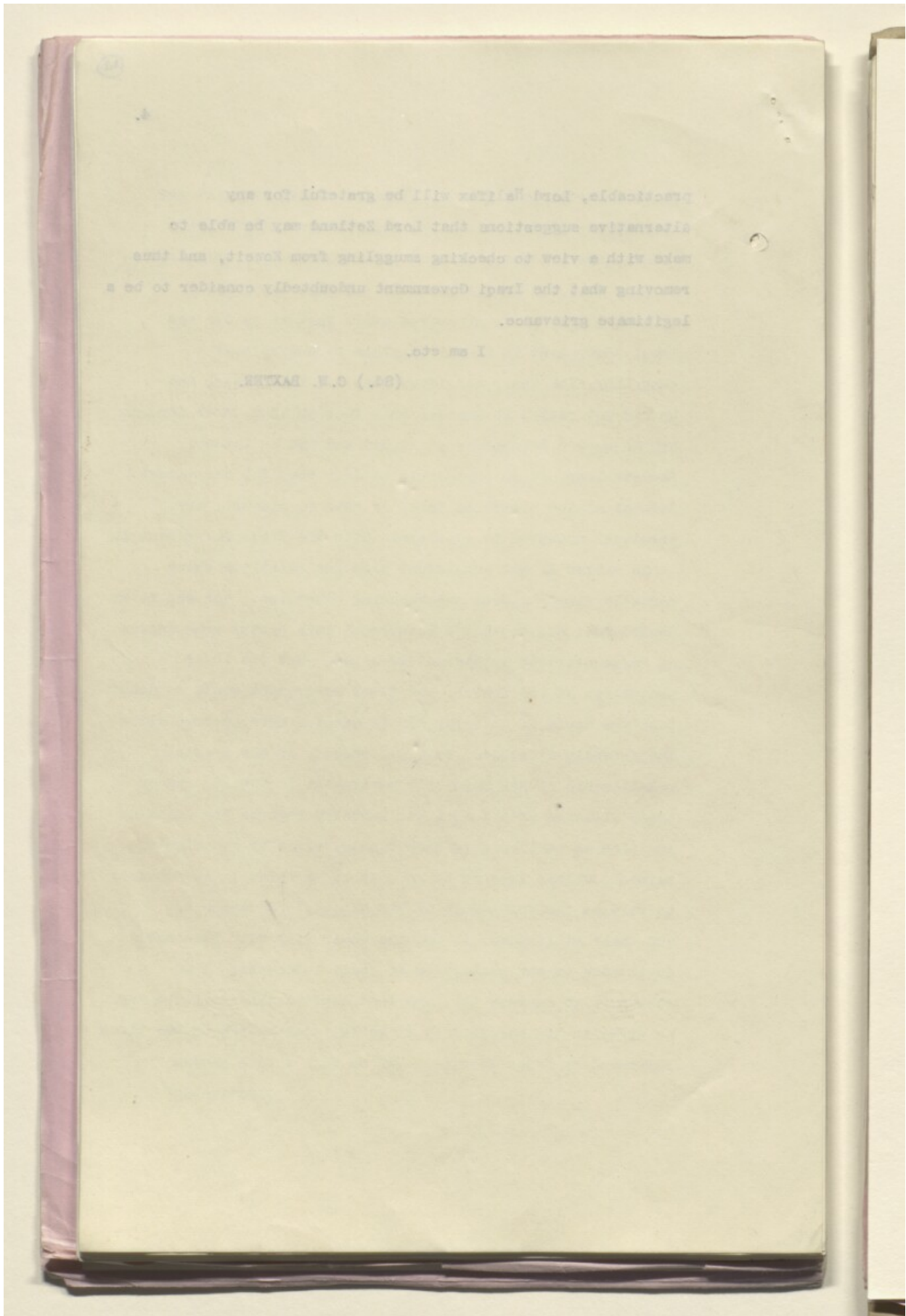
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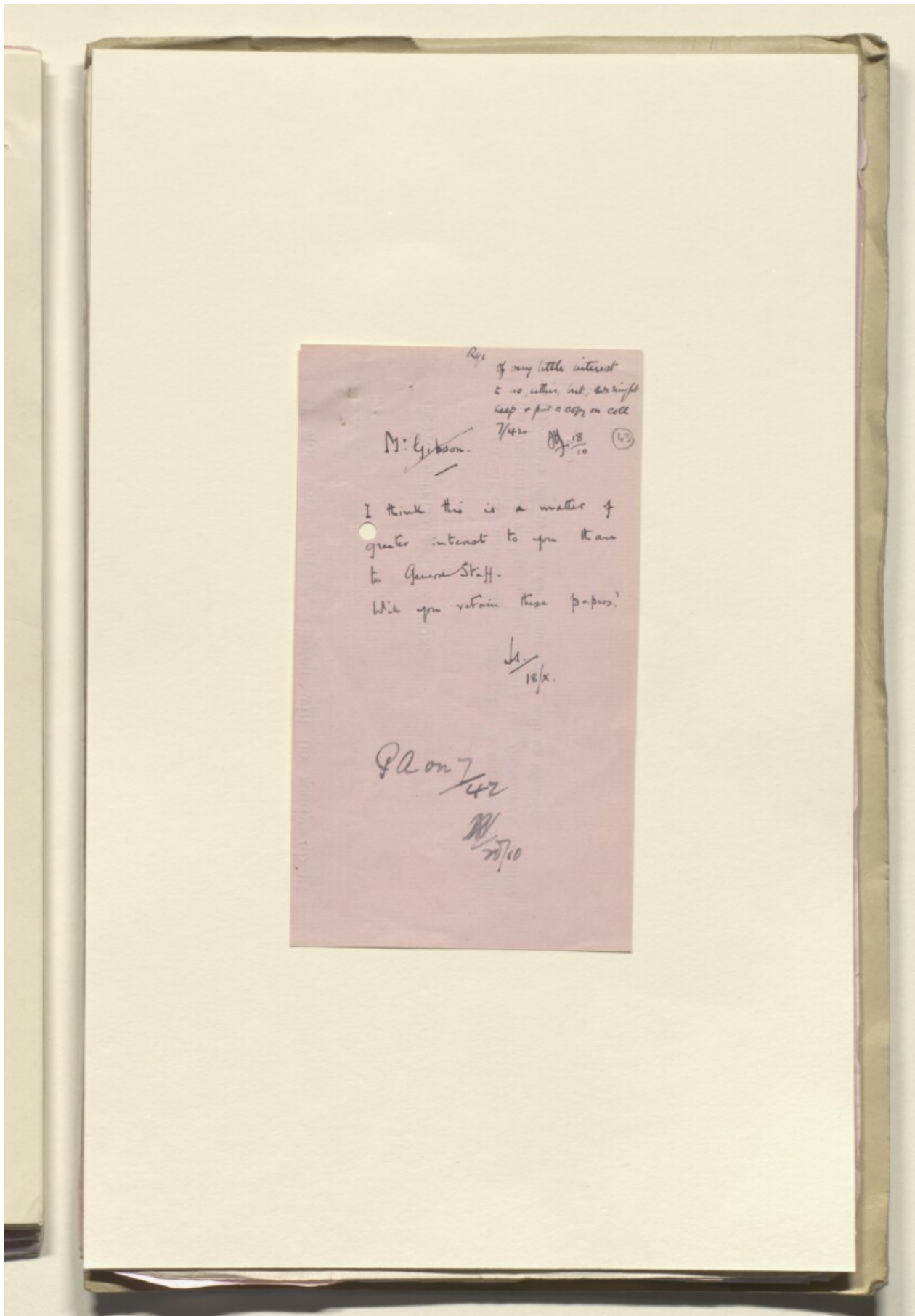
4.

practicable, Lord Halifax will be grateful for any alternative suggestions that Lord Zetland may be able to make with a view to checking smuggling from Koweit, and thus removing what the Iraqi Government undoubtedly consider to be a legitimate grievance.

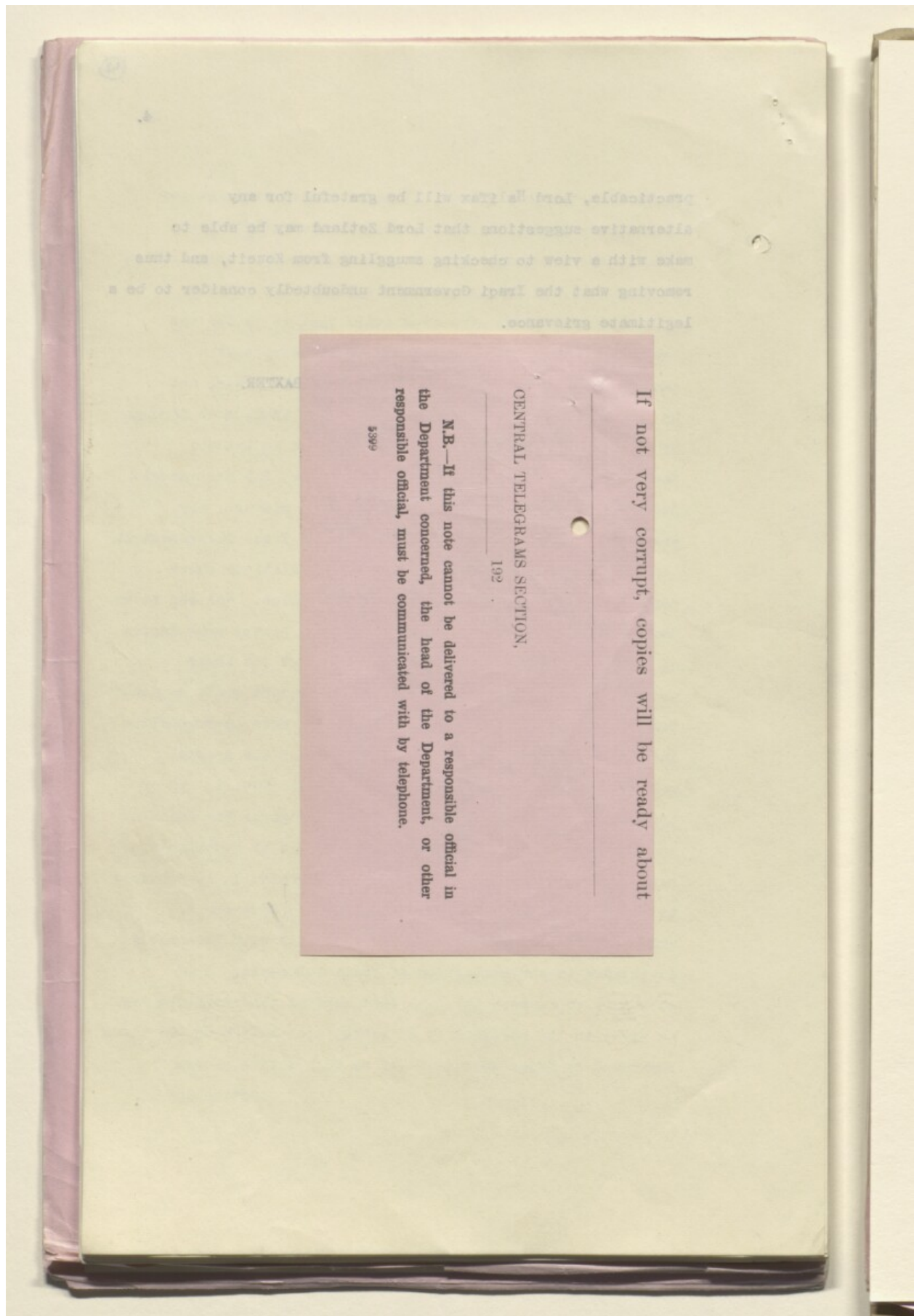
I am etc.

(Sd.) C.W. BAXTER.









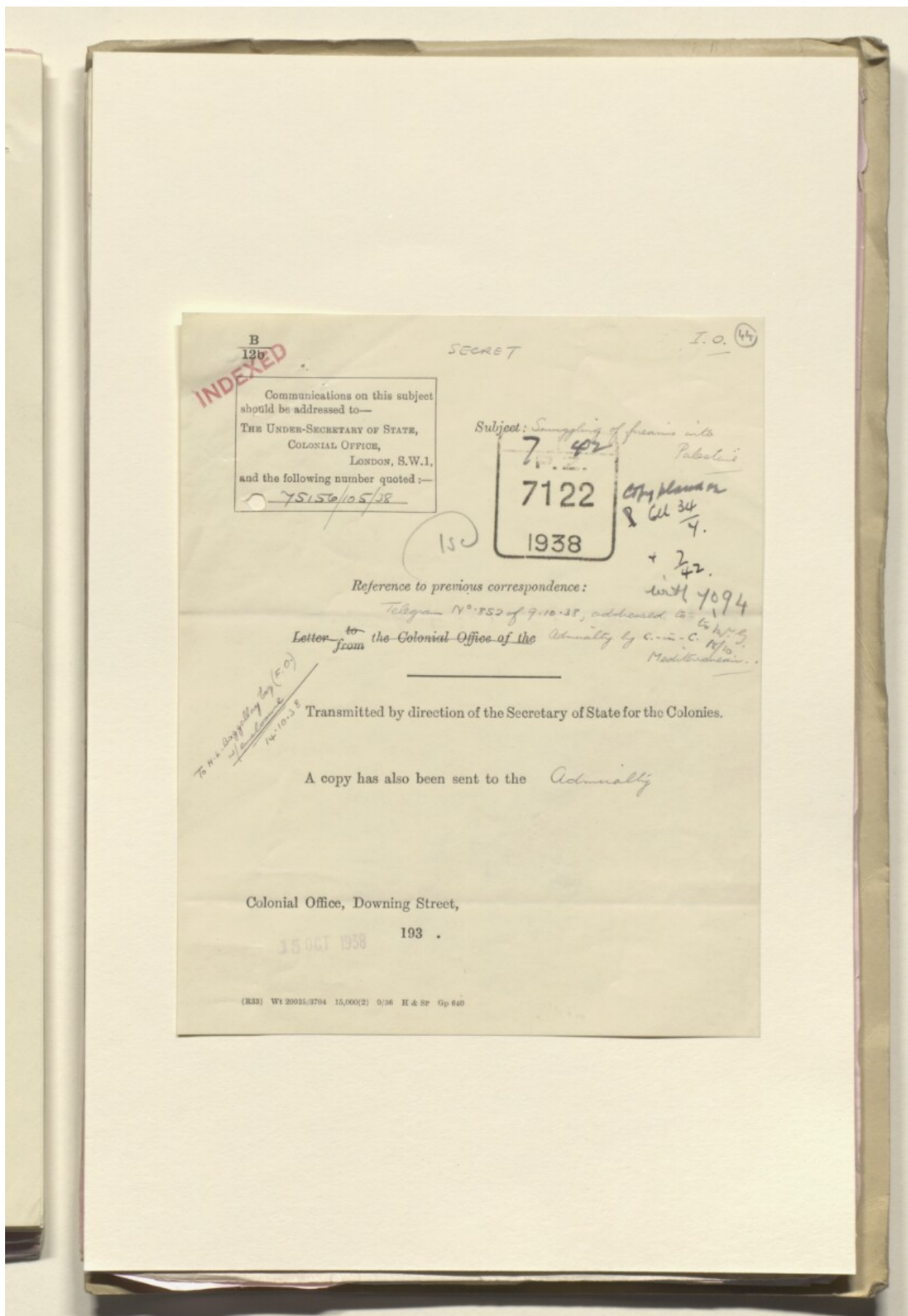
If not very corrupt, copies will be ready about

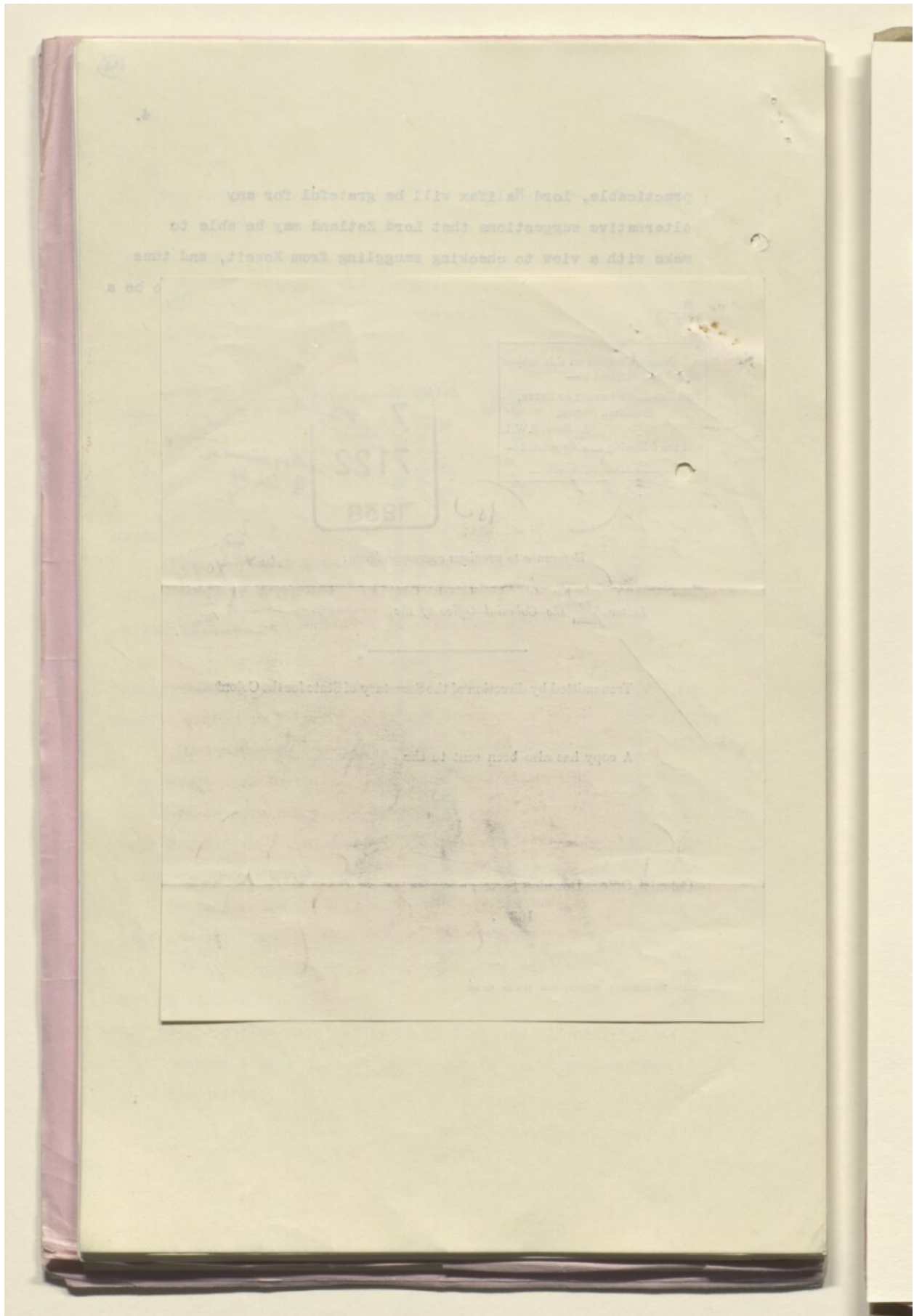
CENTRAL TELEGRAMS SECTION,

192

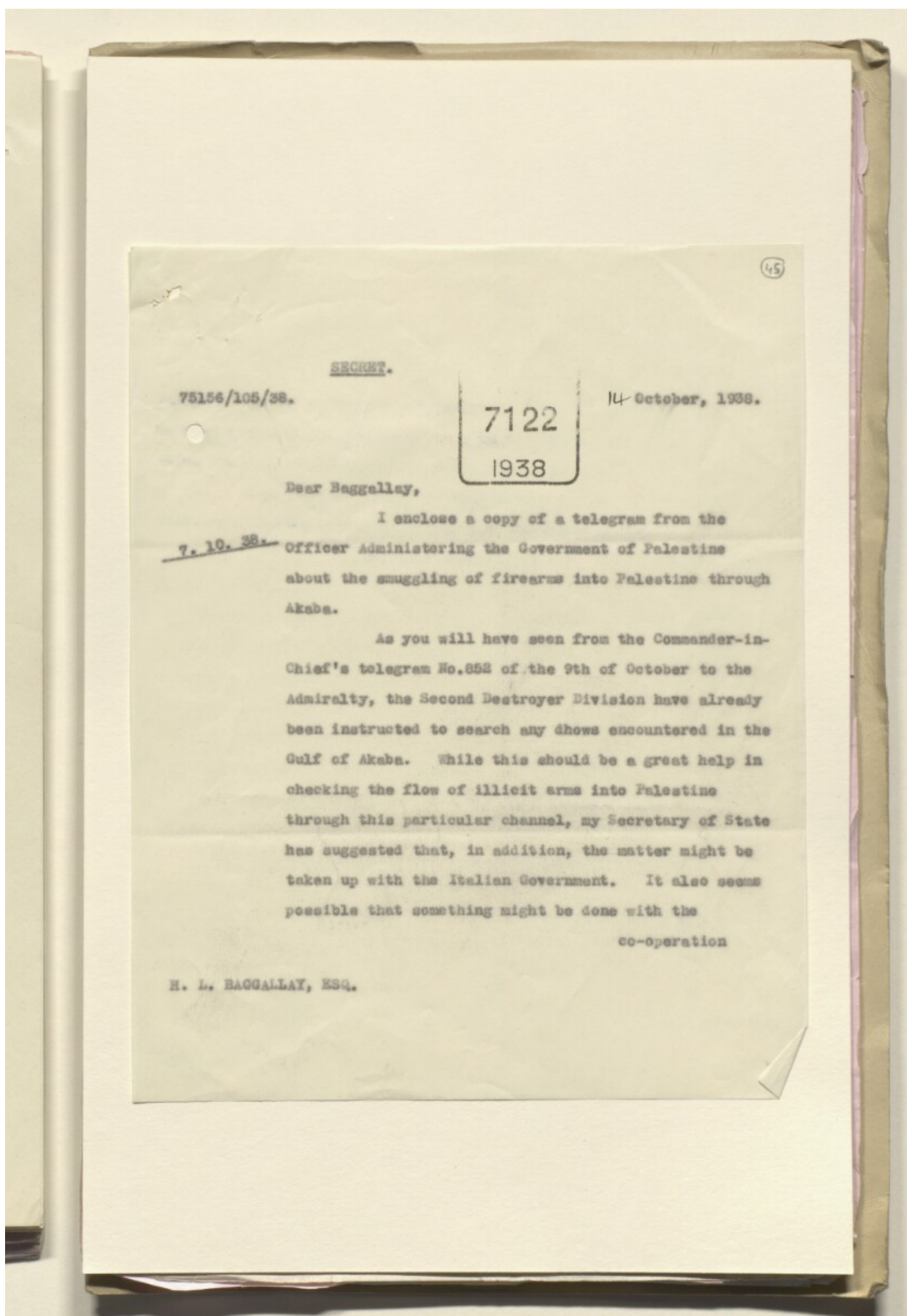
N.B.—If this note cannot be delivered to a responsible official in the Department concerned, the head of the Department, or other responsible official, must be communicated with by telephone.

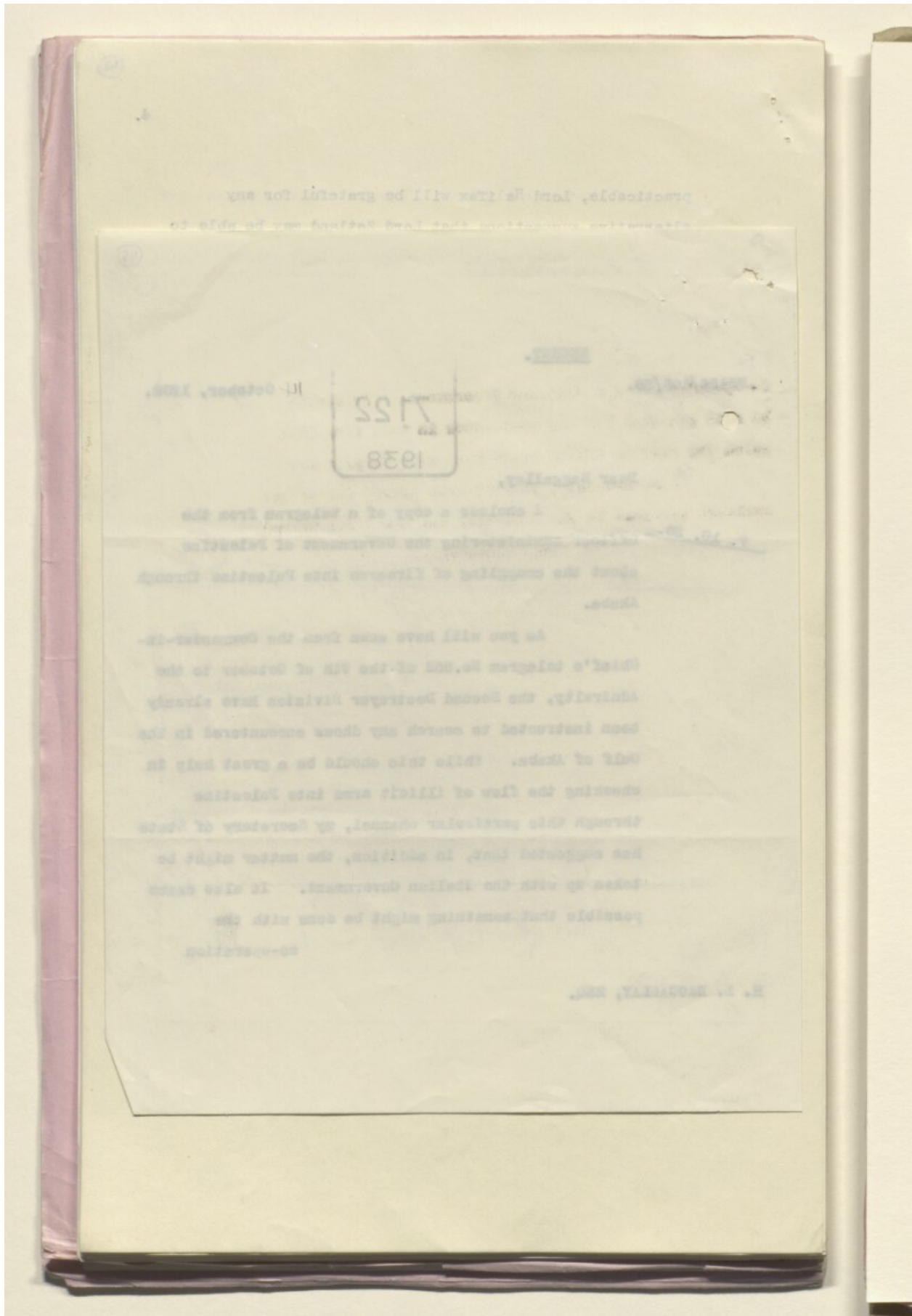
5399













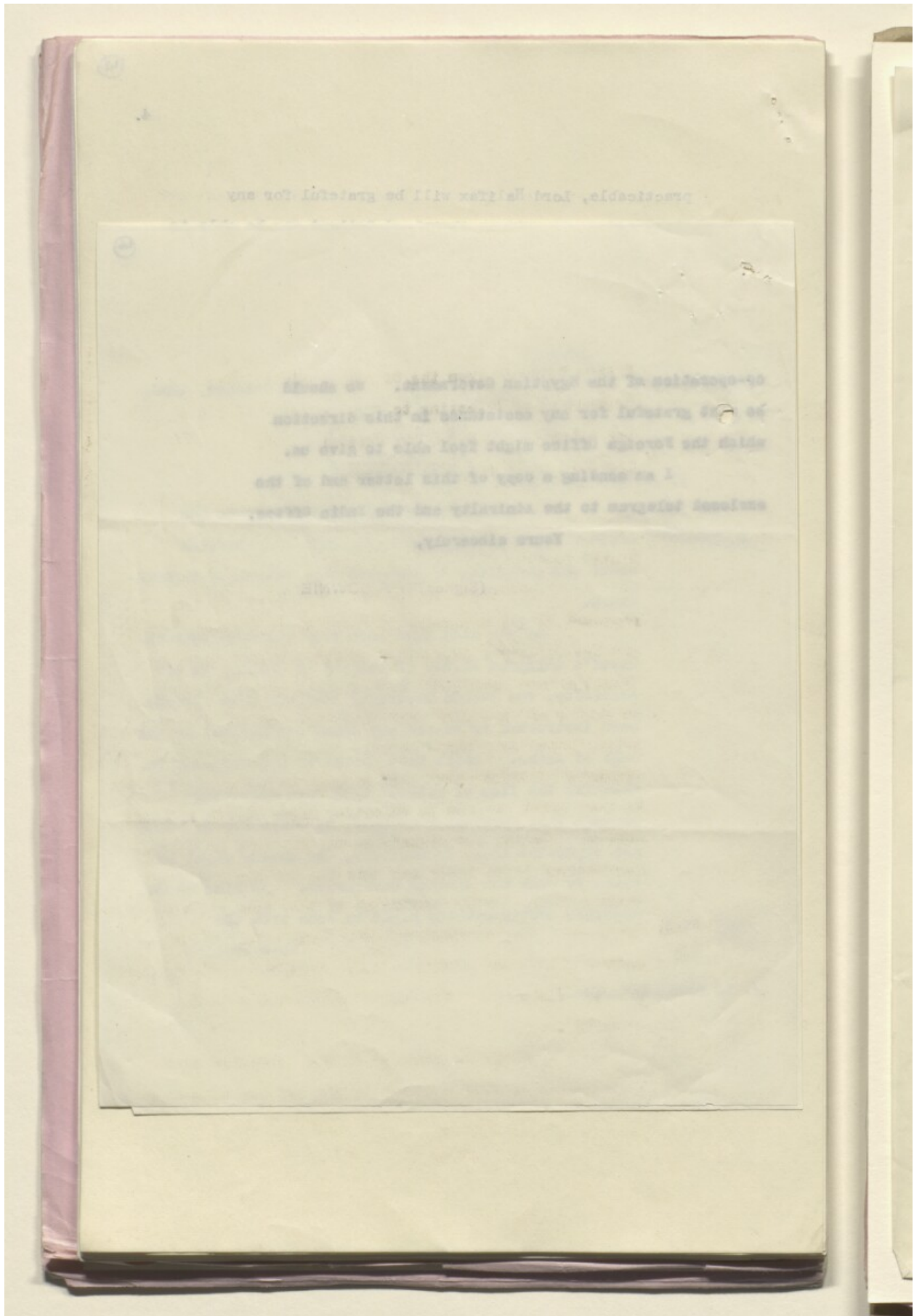
co-operation of the Egyptian Government. We should  
be most grateful for any assistance in this direction  
which the Foreign Office might feel able to give us.

I am sending a copy of this letter and of the  
enclosed telegram to the Admiralty and the India Office.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. F. DOWNIE







7122

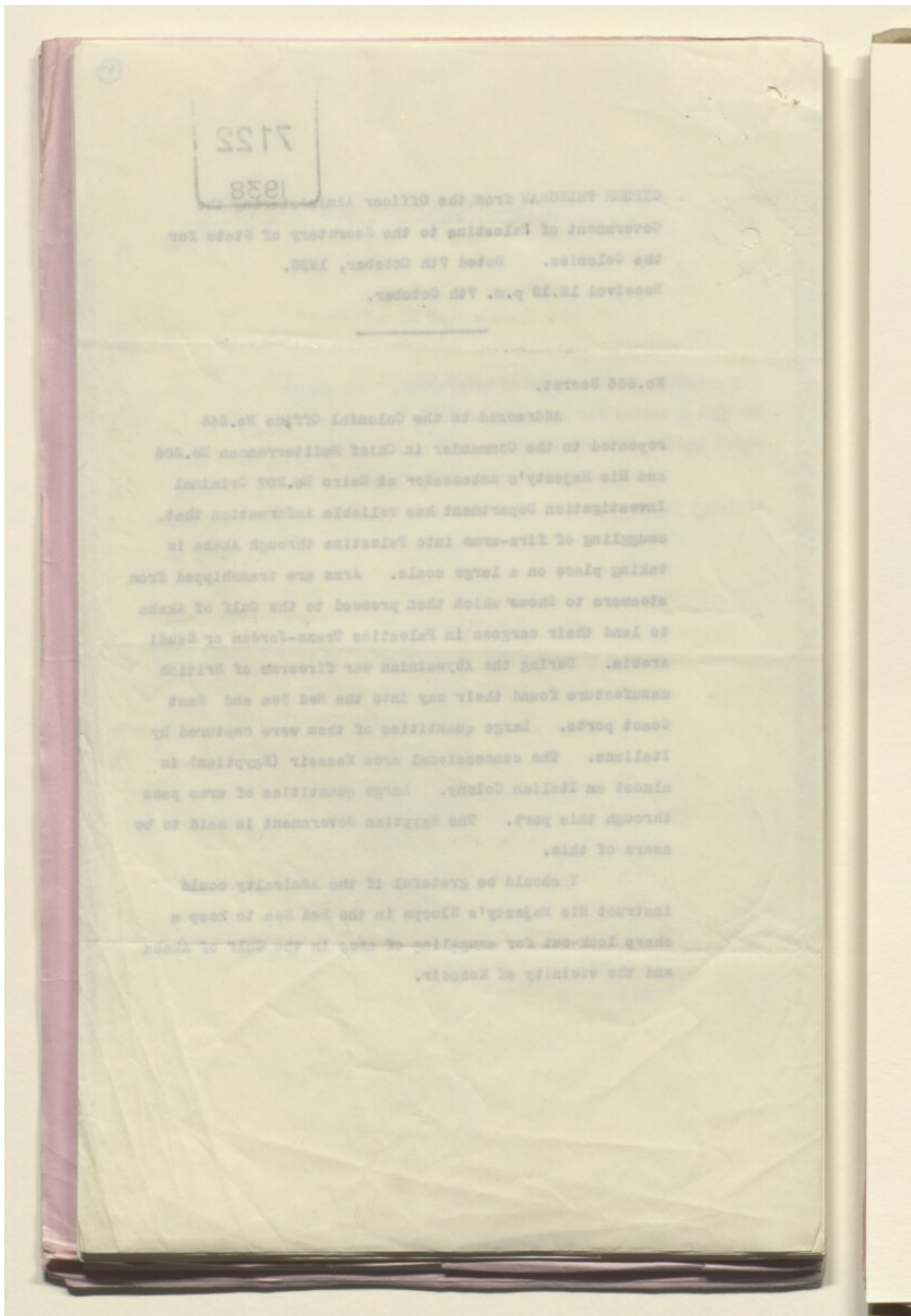
1938

CYPHER TELEGRAM from the Officer Administering the  
Government of Palestine to the Secretary of State for  
the Colonies. Dated 7th October, 1938.  
Received 12.18 p.m. 7th October.

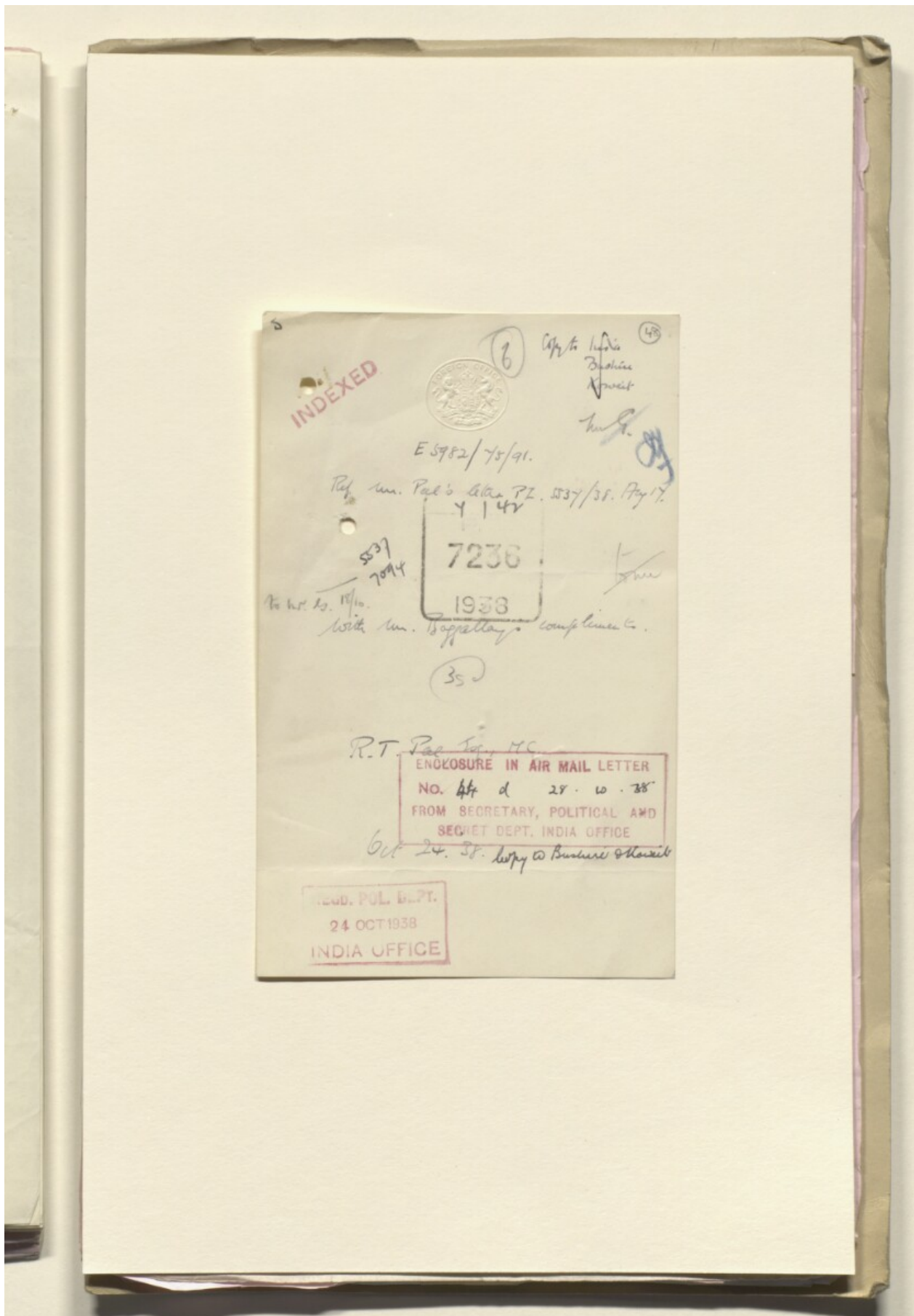
No.666 Secret.

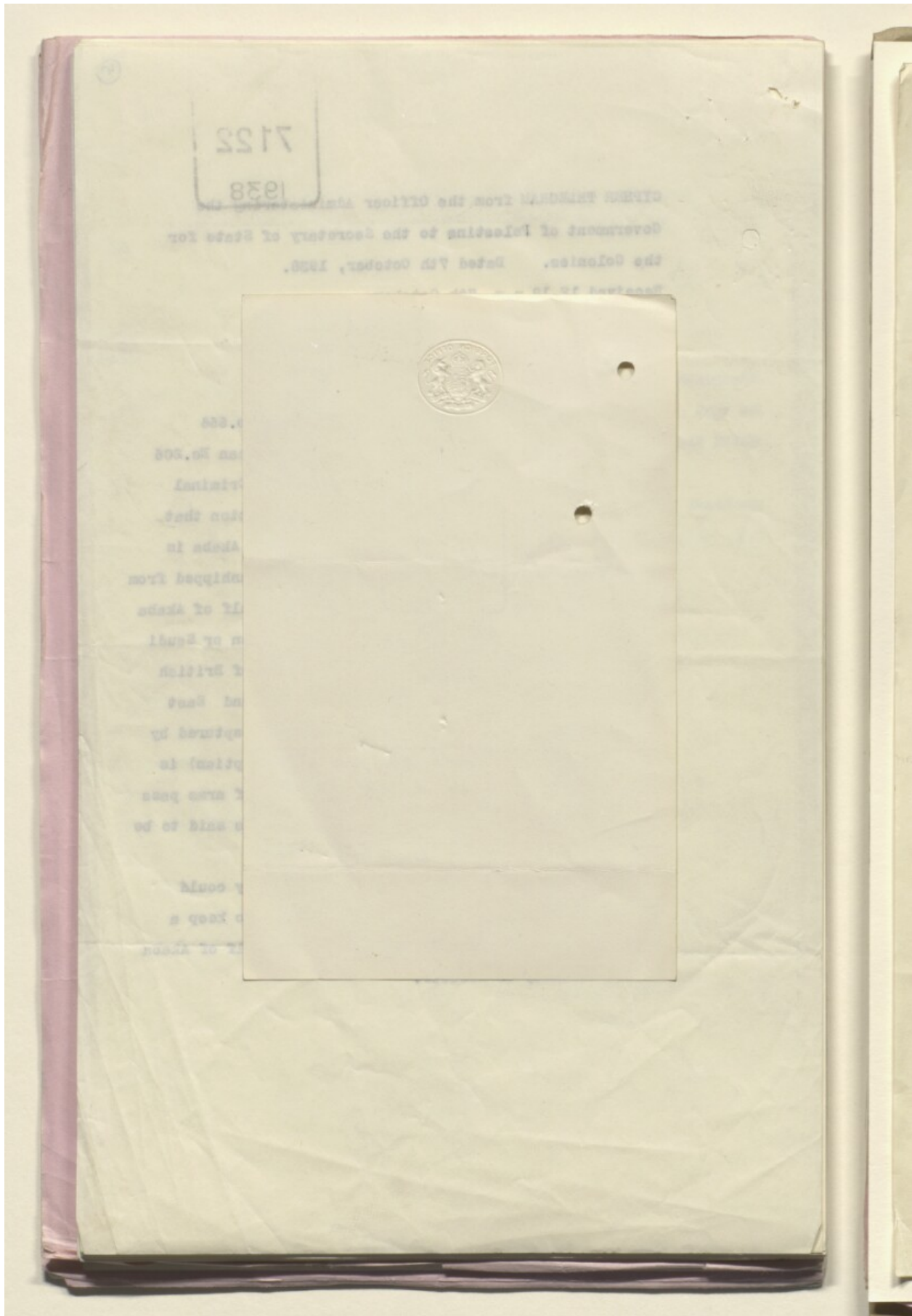
Addressed to the Colonial Office No.666  
repeated to the Commander in Chief Mediterranean No.206  
and His Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo No.207 Criminal  
Investigation Department has reliable information that  
smuggling of fire-arms into Palestine through Akaba is  
taking place on a large scale. Arms are transhipped from  
steamers to Dhows which then proceed to the Gulf of Akaba  
to land their cargoes in Palestine Trans-Jordan or Saudi  
Arabia. During the Abyssinian war firearms of British  
manufacture found their way into the Red Sea and East  
Coast ports. Large quantities of them were captured by  
Italians. The concessional area Kosseir (Egyptian) is  
almost an Italian Colony. Large quantities of arms pass  
through this port. The Egyptian Government is said to be  
aware of this.

I should be grateful if the Admiralty could  
instruct His Majesty's Sloops in the Red Sea to keep a  
sharp look-out for smuggling of arms in the Gulf of Akaba  
and the vicinity of Kosseir.











Copy.

(E 5982/75/91)

No. 2030/382/7.

7236

1938

British Legation,

Jedda.

September 19th, 1938.

Dear Department,

In reply to your letter No. E 4879/75/91 of September 1st 1938, about gun running, we have no reason to suppose that there is a large traffic in arms through Jedda or the Red Sea ports. In fact we think that if there was such a traffic we should have heard of it, in one way or another. Of course nobody here really knows what goes on in the interior of this country, more especially at Riyadh: for all we know it is possible that the King, finding he has got a lot of rifles this year, has been slightly more liberal with them and has given some out to the tribes as part of the tribal subsidy. But we have no evidence for this at all: it is pure surmise.

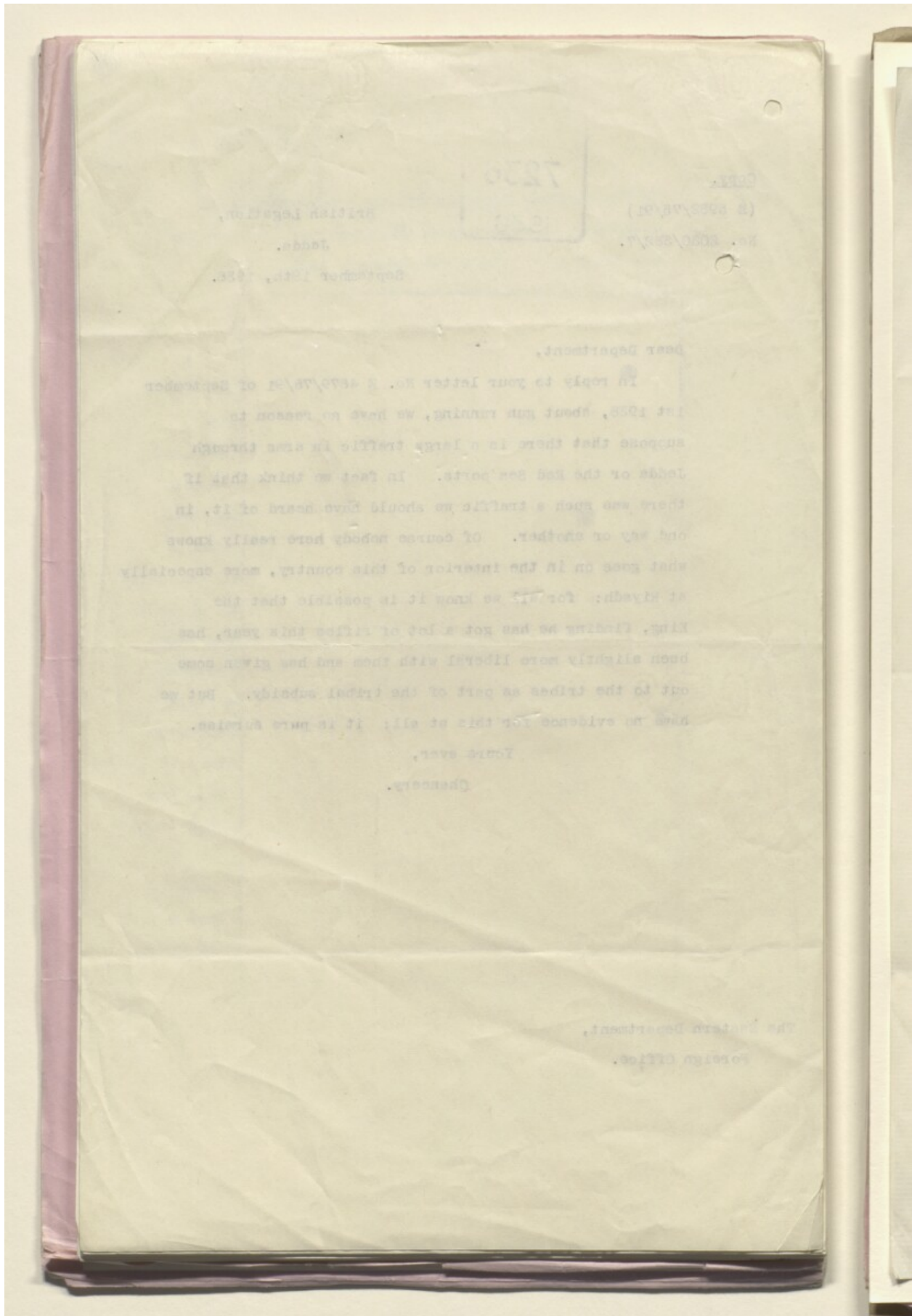
Yours ever,

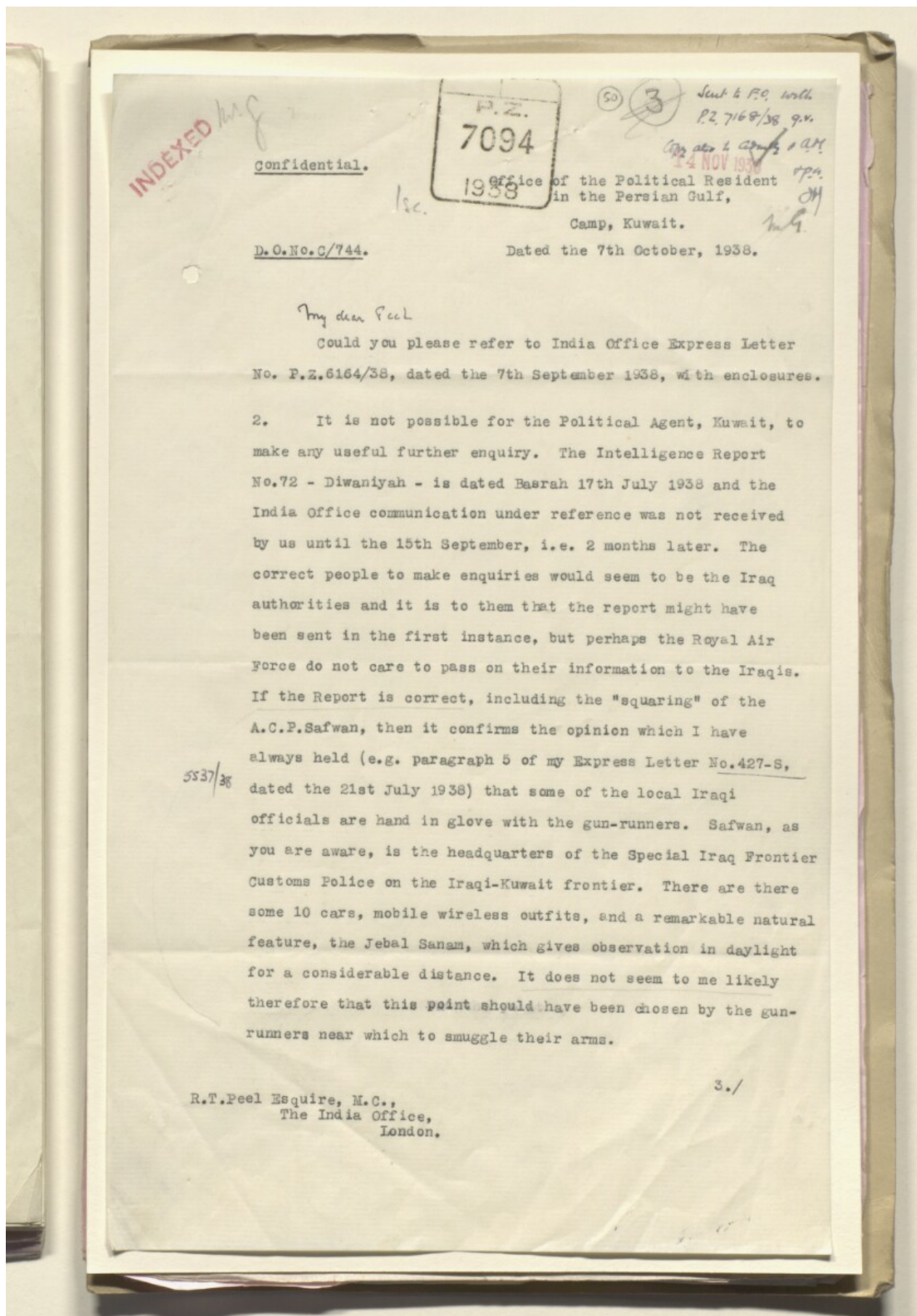
Chancery.

The Eastern Department,

Foreign Office.







INDEXED

Confidential.

P.Z.  
7094  
1938

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,

Camp, Kuwait.

D.O.No.C/744.

Dated the 7th October, 1938.

My dear Peel

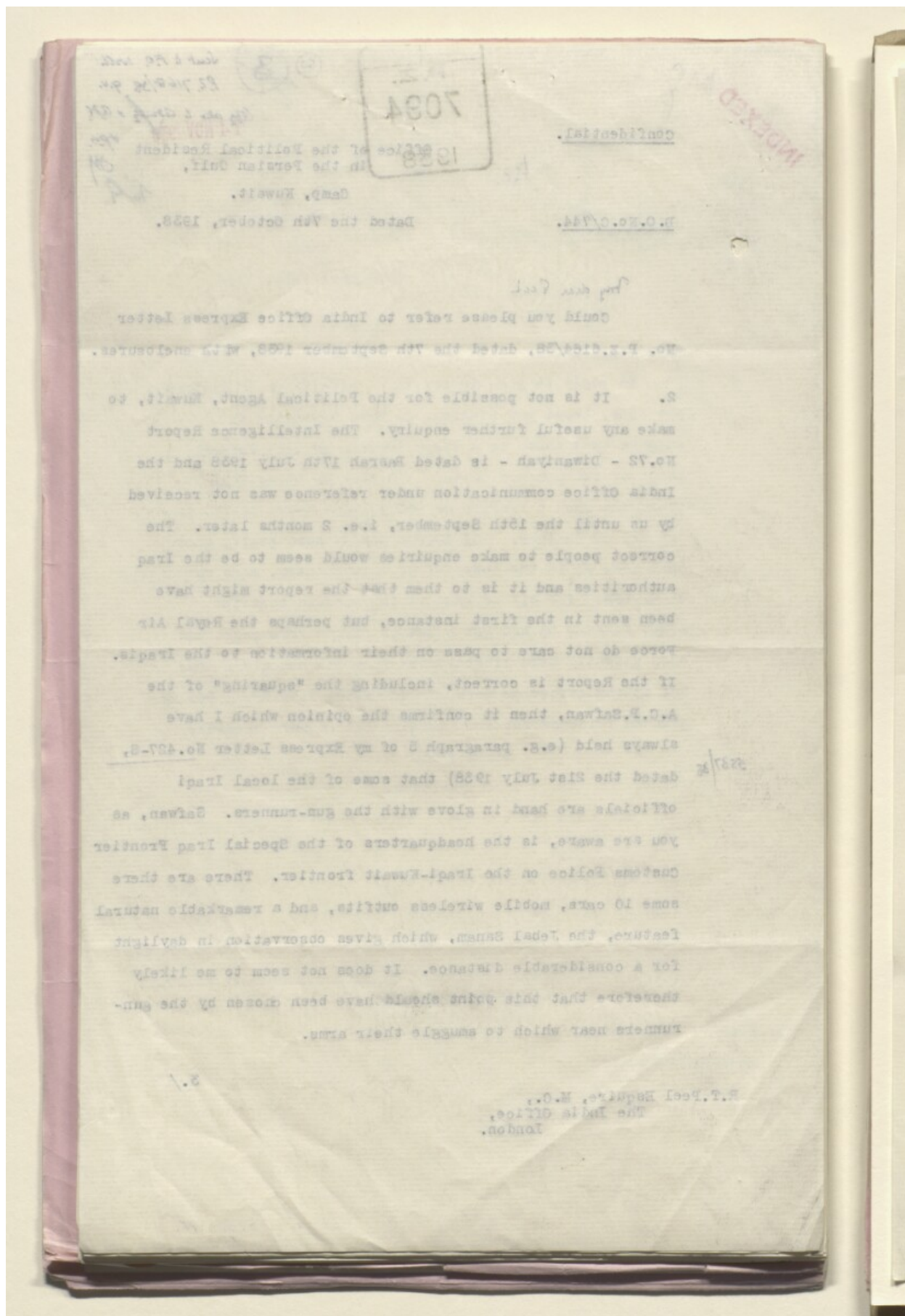
Could you please refer to India Office Express Letter  
No. P.Z.6164/38, dated the 7th September 1938, with enclosures.

2. It is not possible for the Political Agent, Kuwait, to  
make any useful further enquiry. The Intelligence Report  
No.72 - Diwaniyah - is dated Basrah 17th July 1938 and the  
India Office communication under reference was not received  
by us until the 15th September, i.e. 2 months later. The  
correct people to make enquiries would seem to be the Iraq  
authorities and it is to them that the report might have  
been sent in the first instance, but perhaps the Royal Air  
Force do not care to pass on their information to the Iraqis.  
If the Report is correct, including the "squaring" of the  
A.C.P.Safwan, then it confirms the opinion which I have  
always held (e.g. paragraph 5 of my Express Letter No.427-S,  
dated the 21st July 1938) that some of the local Iraqi  
officials are hand in glove with the gun-runners. Safwan, as  
you are aware, is the headquarters of the Special Iraq Frontier  
Customs Police on the Iraqi-Kuwait frontier. There are there  
some 10 cars, mobile wireless outfits, and a remarkable natural  
feature, the Jebal Sanam, which gives observation in daylight  
for a considerable distance. It does not seem to me likely  
therefore that this point should have been chosen by the gun-  
runners near which to smuggle their arms.

R.T.Peel Esquire, M.C.,  
The India Office,  
London.

3./









(51)

-2-

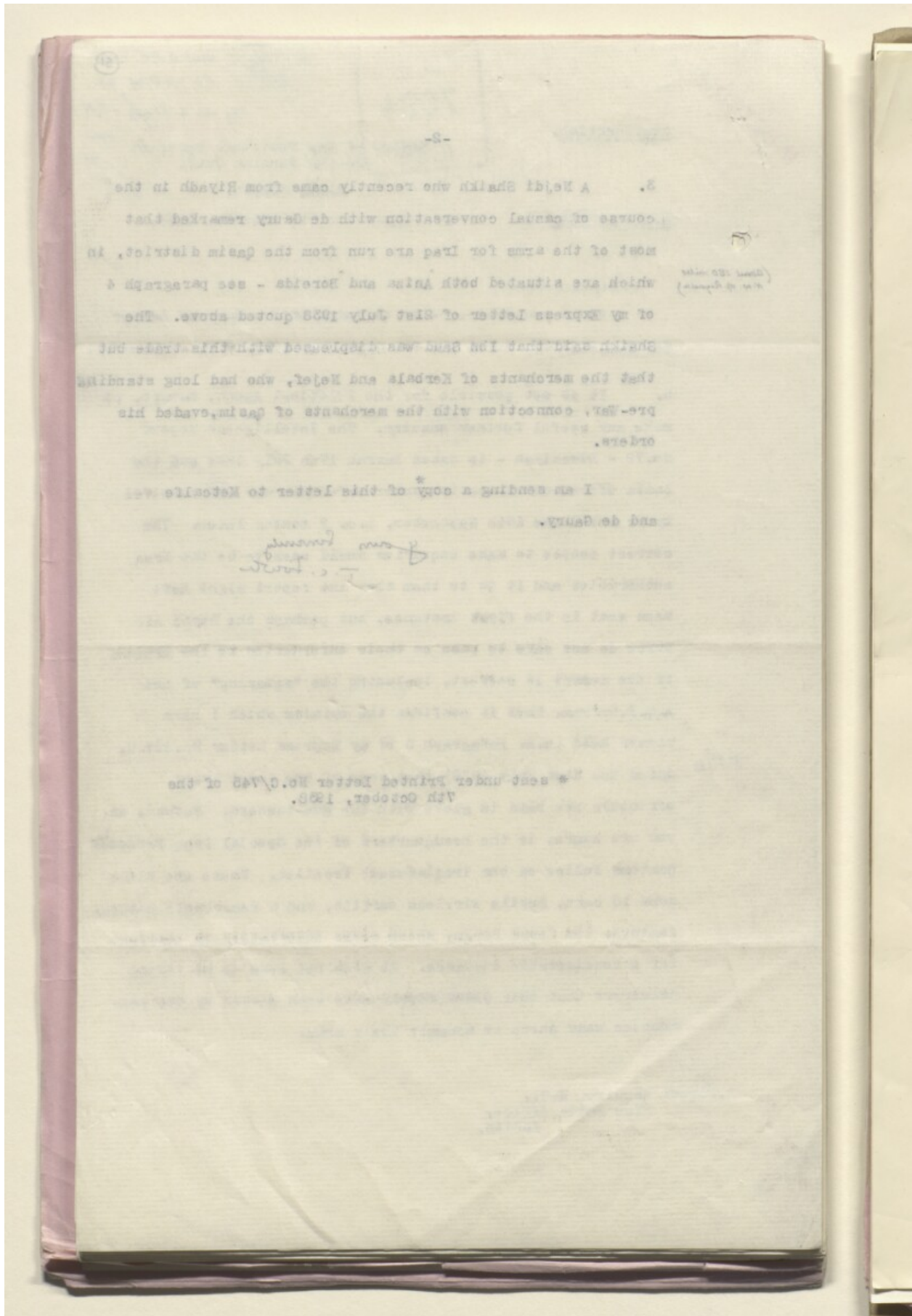
(about 180 miles  
N.W. of Riyadh)

3. A Nejdī Shaikh who recently came from Riyadh in the course of casual conversation with de Gaury remarked that most of the arms for Iraq are run from the Qasim district, in which are situated both Aniza and Boreida - see paragraph 4 of my Express Letter of 21st July 1938 quoted above. The Shaikh said that Ibn Saud was displeased with this trade but that the merchants of Kerbala and Nejef, who had long standing pre-War, connection with the merchants of Qasim, evaded his orders.

I am sending a copy\* of this letter to Metcalfe and de Gaury.

Yours sincerely  
T. C. Firth

\* sent under Printed Letter No.C/745 of the  
7th October, 1938.





3 + 11

Draft Paper. P.Z. 6161/38

Department. *W.M.* *8/9* *P.S.* *W. J. 8/9*

Confidential

Express letter from  
S/S to Pst. Resident in the P.G.

Repeats to J. P. Gibson, Sub. Off. Dept.  
+ Pst. Agent, Koweit.

To F.O., 17 Aug.  
From - 1 Sept. with encl.

Copy to F.O.  
Applg. *7 SEP 1938*  
A.M.

*7 SEP 1938*

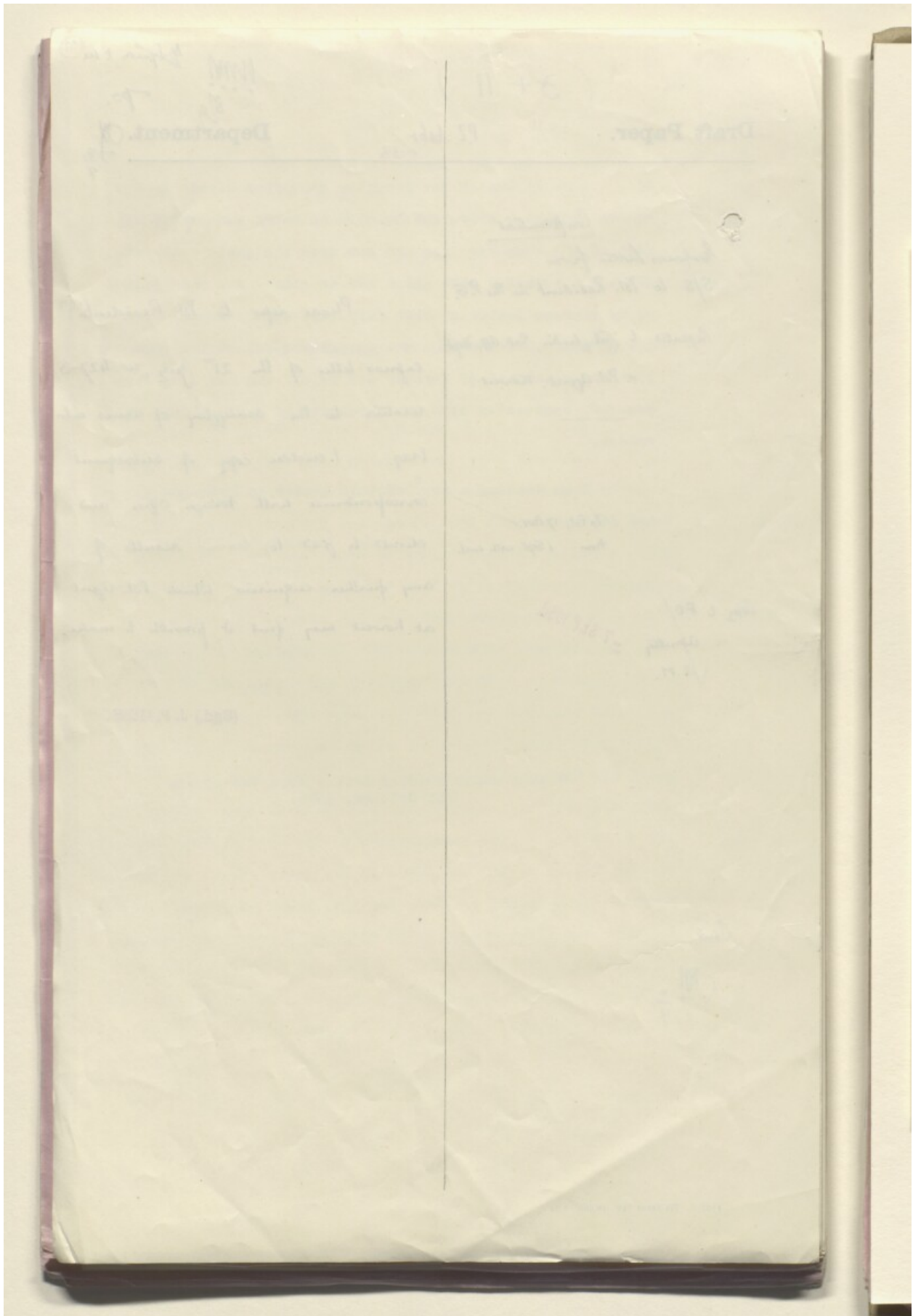
Please refer to Pst. Resident's  
express letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> July, no. 427-S,  
relative to the smuggling of arms into  
Iraq. I enclose copy of subsequent  
correspondence with foreign Office and  
should be glad to learn results of  
any further enquiries which Pst. Agent  
at Koweit may find it possible to make.

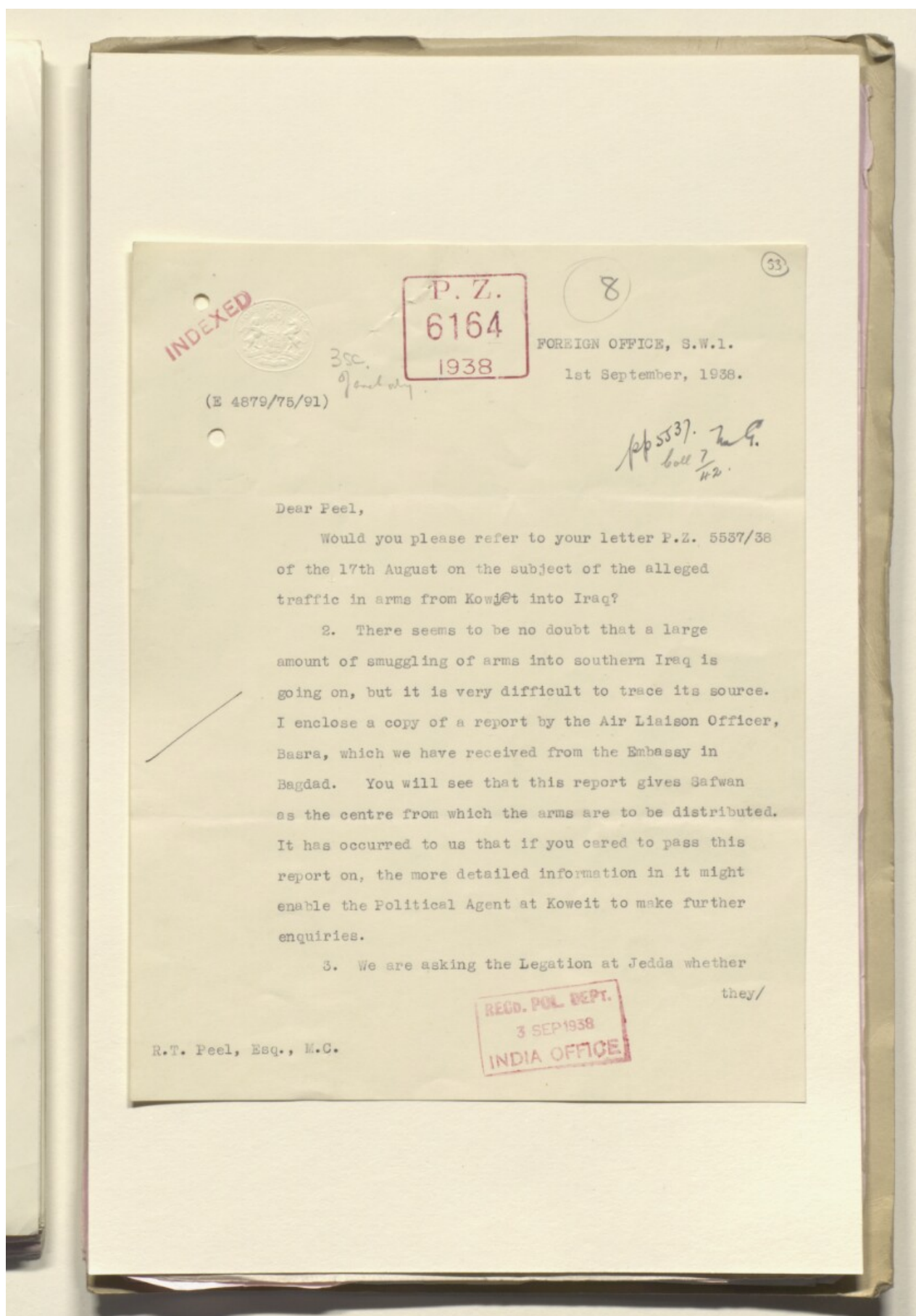
(Sgd.) J. P. GIBSON

Sent  
*W. J. 8/9*

6837 Wt 24601/249 16,000 1.38







INDEXED

P. Z.  
6164  
1938

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.  
1st September, 1938.

(E 4879/75/91)

3sc.  
J. Peel

10p 5537. 2nd 9.  
ball 7/12.

Dear Peel,

Would you please refer to your letter P.Z. 5537/38 of the 17th August on the subject of the alleged traffic in arms from Kowjet into Iraq?

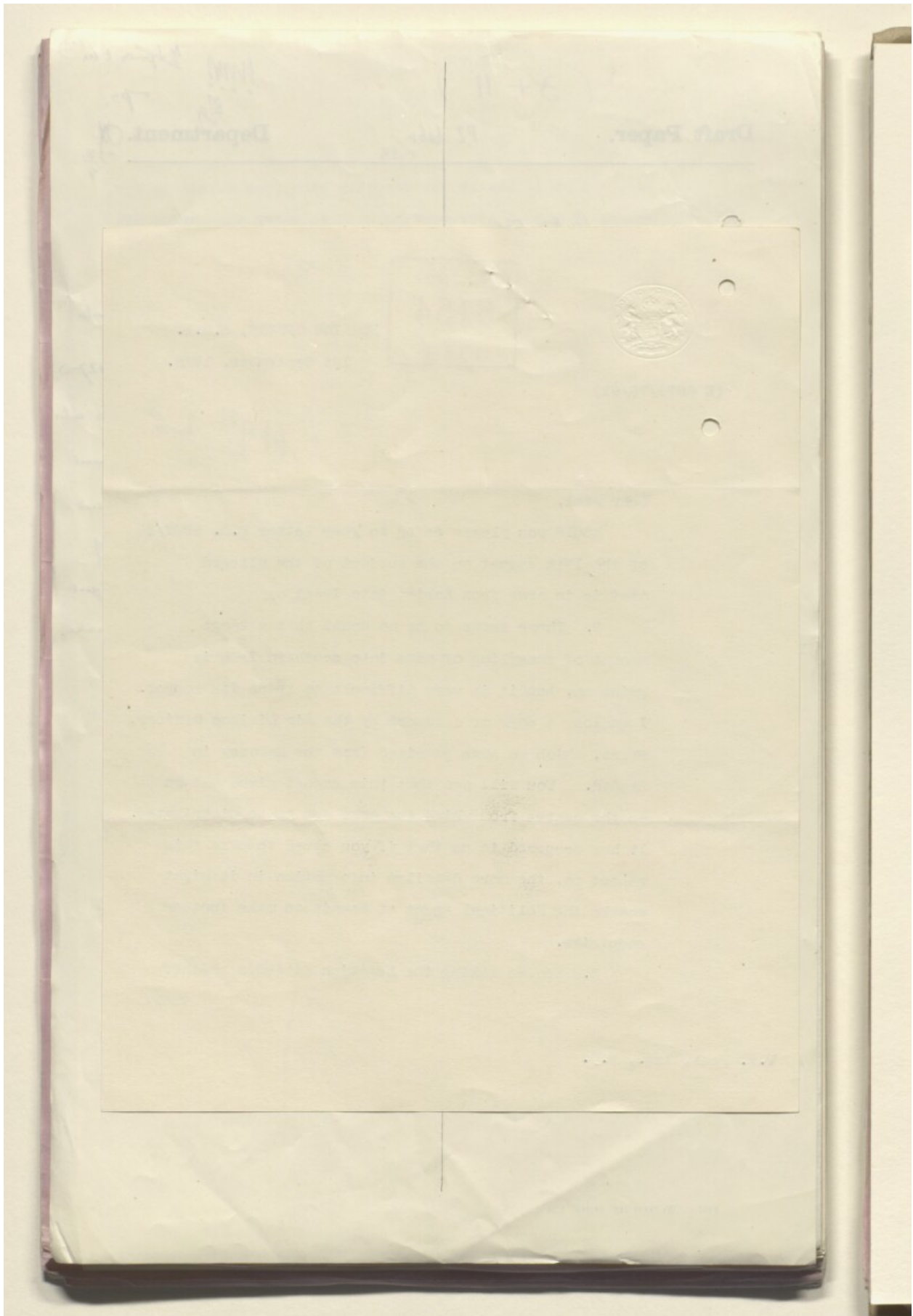
2. There seems to be no doubt that a large amount of smuggling of arms into southern Iraq is going on, but it is very difficult to trace its source. I enclose a copy of a report by the Air Liaison Officer, Basra, which we have received from the Embassy in Bagdad. You will see that this report gives Safwan as the centre from which the arms are to be distributed. It has occurred to us that if you cared to pass this report on, the more detailed information in it might enable the Political Agent at Koweit to make further enquiries.

3. We are asking the Legation at Jedda whether

they/

R.T. Peel, Esq., M.C.

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
3 SEP 1938  
INDIA OFFICE







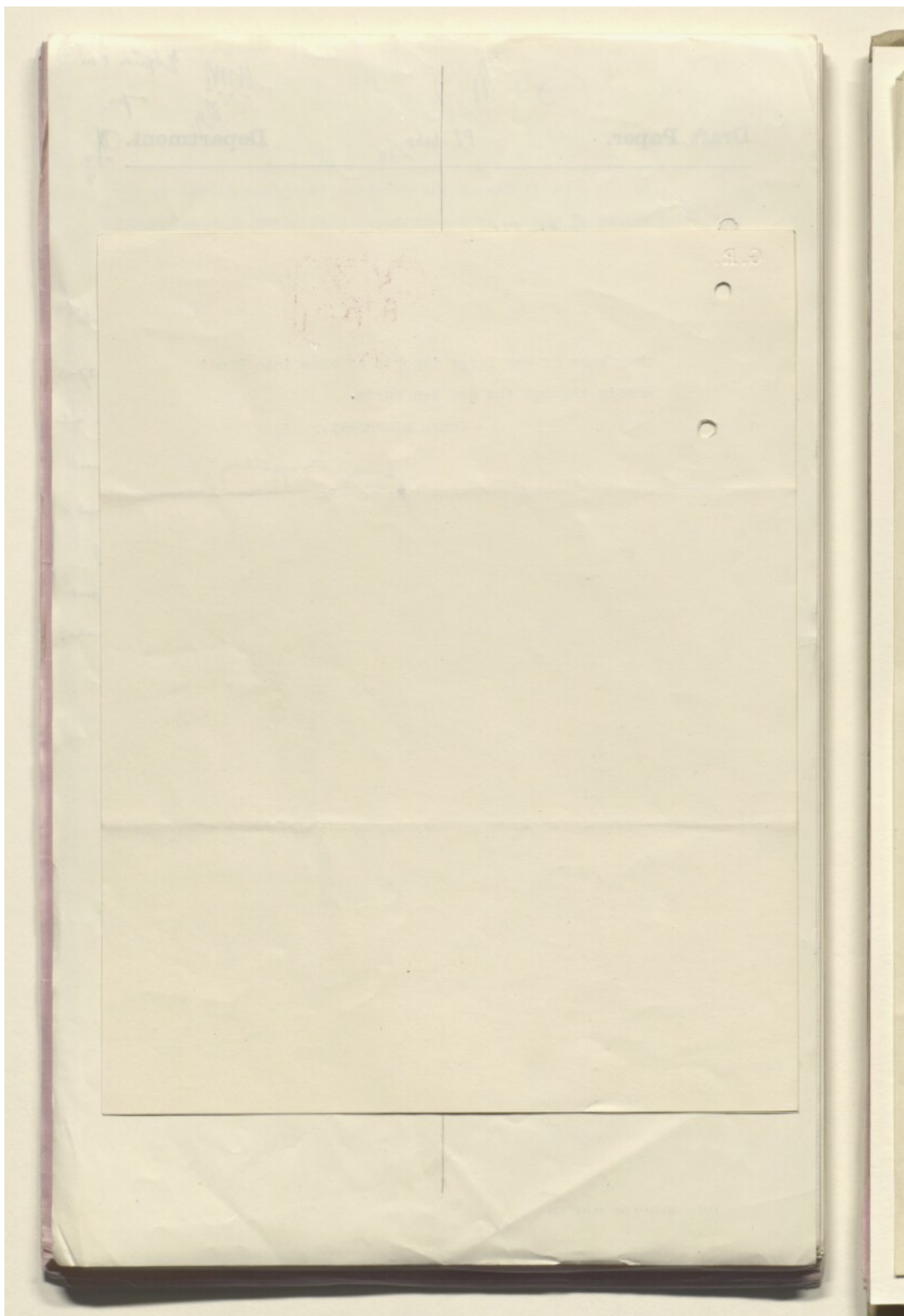
G. R.

(54)

they know of any large imports of arms into Saudi  
Arabia through the Red Sea ports.

Yours sincerely,

*Henry Stagg*





COPY

(E 4.18/75/91)

P. Z.  
6164  
1938

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 72.

DIWANIYAH.

1. 10 men arrived by train at Basra on 13th July en route for JAHARAH (KUWAIT). Each man represented a tribal shaikh and carried money for the purchase of ammunition to be smuggled at a later date into Iraq.

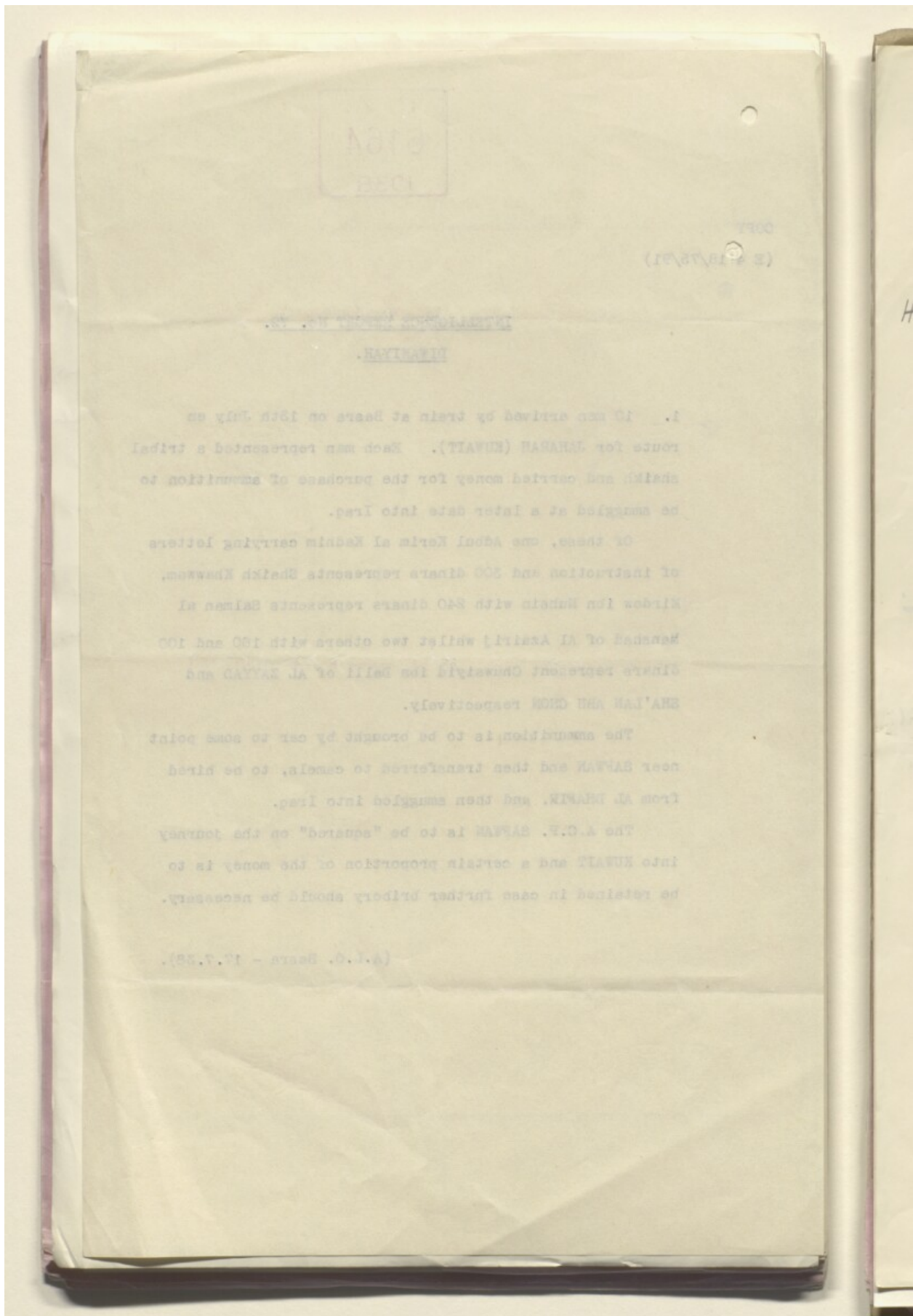
Of these, one Adbul Kerim al Kadhim carrying letters of instruction and 300 dinars represents Shaikh Khawwam, Mirdow ibn Muhsin with 240 dinars represents Salman al Manshad of Al Azairij whilst two others with 160 and 100 dinars represent Chuwaiyid ibn Dalli of AL ZAYYAD and SHA'LAN ABU CHON respectively.

The ammunition is to be brought by car to some point near SAFWAN and then transferred to camels, to be hired from AL DHAFIR, and then smuggled into Iraq.

The A.C.P. SAFWAN is to be "squared" on the journey into KUWAIT and a certain proportion of the money is to be retained in case further bribery should be necessary.

(A.L.O. Basra - 17.7.38).





Department.

17 AUG 1938

Dear Baggallay,  
Would you please  
refer to Bureau's 20. letter  
to Wilson of the 12<sup>th</sup> May  
(No. E.2498/75/91) &  
connected correspondence about  
the alleged traffic in arms  
from Kuwait into Iraq?

2. I now enclose a copy  
of a letter from Fowle, which has been  
~~respectful invitation~~ to Baghdad,  
setting out his views on  
this question. You will  
note that Fowle is satisfied  
that there is no traffic in  
arms from Kuwait into Iraq  
and his opinion as to this  
should appear to gain support  
from the statement in  
Additional letter No. M 03097/38  
of the 4<sup>th</sup> August that there  
"few if any arms enter  
Kuwait"

Express Letter No 427-S  
7-21<sup>st</sup> July 1928

18 AUG 1938

Gr L/A. } Gift sum -  
A. }  
18 AUG

n. Pel  
n. rijn  
WMO.  
- 1978

6837      Wt. 34001/949    10.600    1.36



Koweit by sea". As  
regards the reports that arms  
traffi passes through Koweit-  
You will see that Fowle  
argues, not unconvincingly,  
that in all probability  
the bulk of the traffi  
passes into Iraq over  
the Saudi-Iraq border or  
through the Saudi-Iraq  
Neutral Zone. As to the original source of these arms

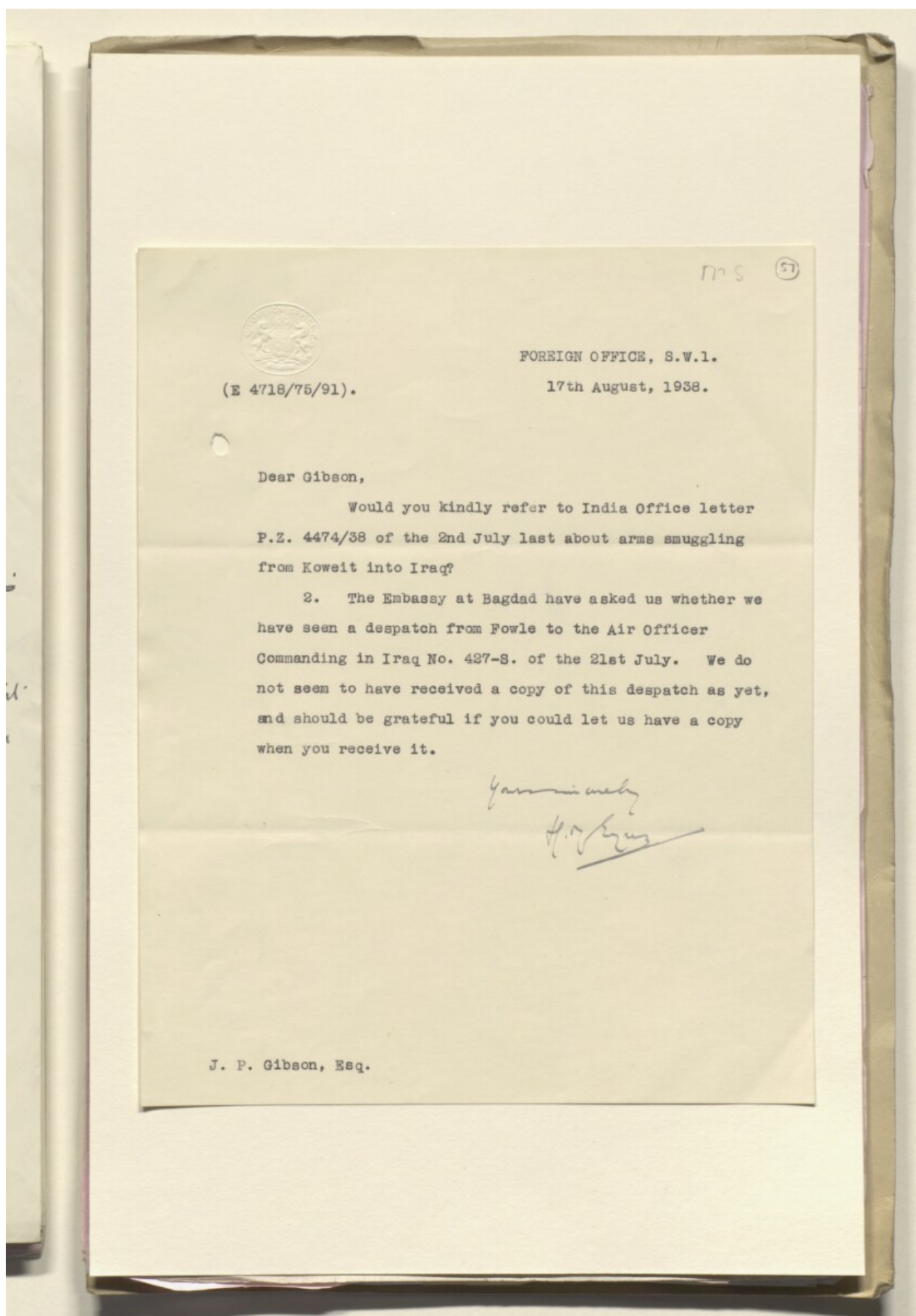
Copies of this letter are  
being sent to the Admiralty  
& Air Ministry.

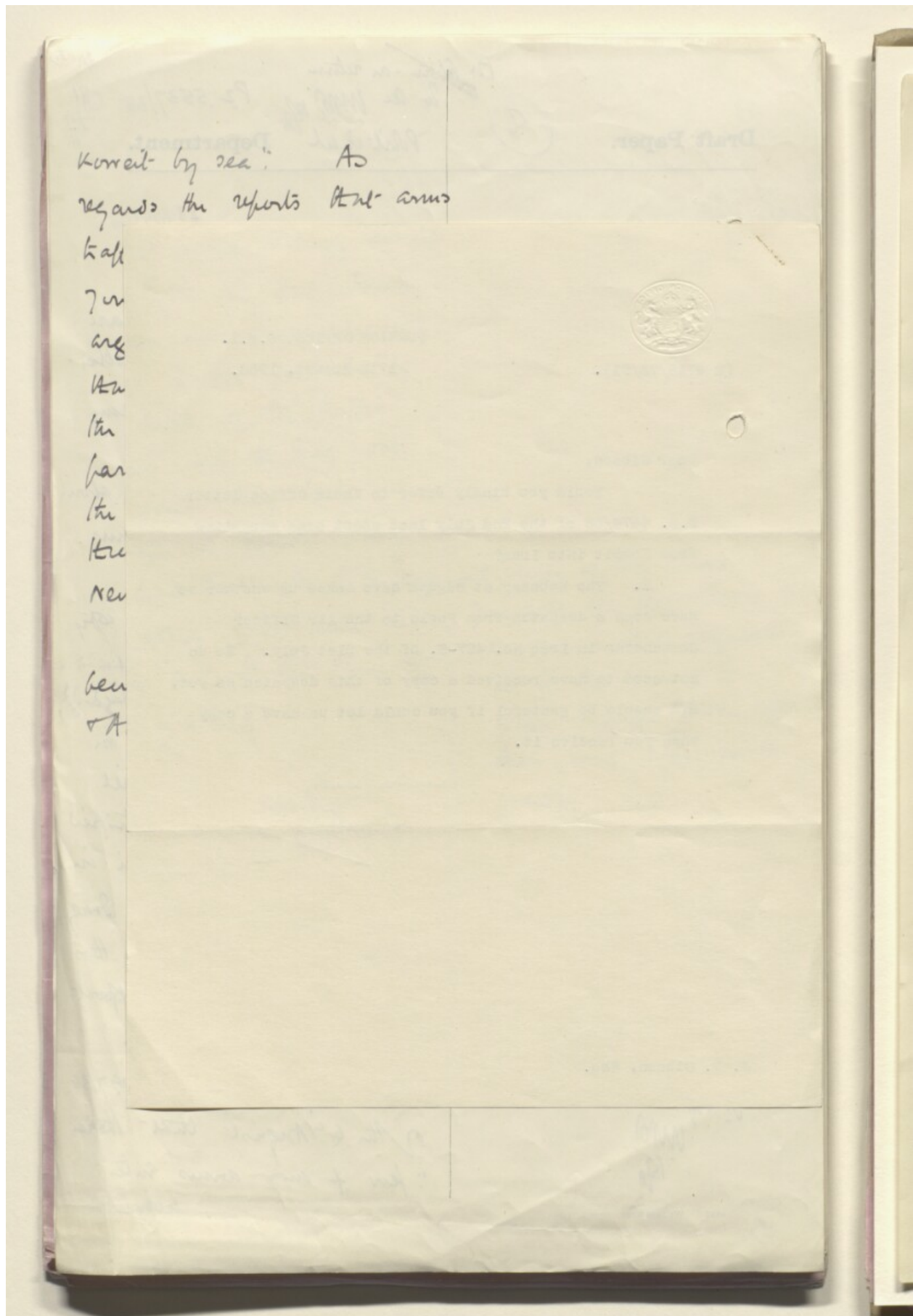
Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) R. PEEL

You will see that Fowle is  
of opinion that enquiries  
as to the amount of  
traffi through Jeddah might  
throw some light on the  
question.









*Arms smuggling file. 7/42 (58)*

P. Z. 6798/1938.

Extract from  
Persian Gulf Intelligence Report for July, 1938.

4. Kuwait Arms Smuggling. With reference to paragraph 4 of the April Persian Gulf Intelligence report and paragraph 10 of the same report for May, further information has now come to hand.

The situation is as follows :- There is no doubt that a large number of arms are finding their way into Iraq and that these arms come from Saudi Arabia. One report states that it has been incontrovertibly proved that arms are being moved from Nejd northward.

The Kuwait authorities state that there is no such smuggling from Kuwait and further that no one in Kuwait from the Shaikh downwards derives profit from a trade in arms passing through Kuwait territory.

R.A.F. authorities on the other hand report four different cases of large quantities of arms and ammunition having arrived in Iraq and in each case the source of their information stated categorically that these arms had passed through Kuwait territory.

The greatest import of arms into Arabia takes place at Jedda and other places on the Red Sea coast where there is no British control of arms as in the Persian Gulf.

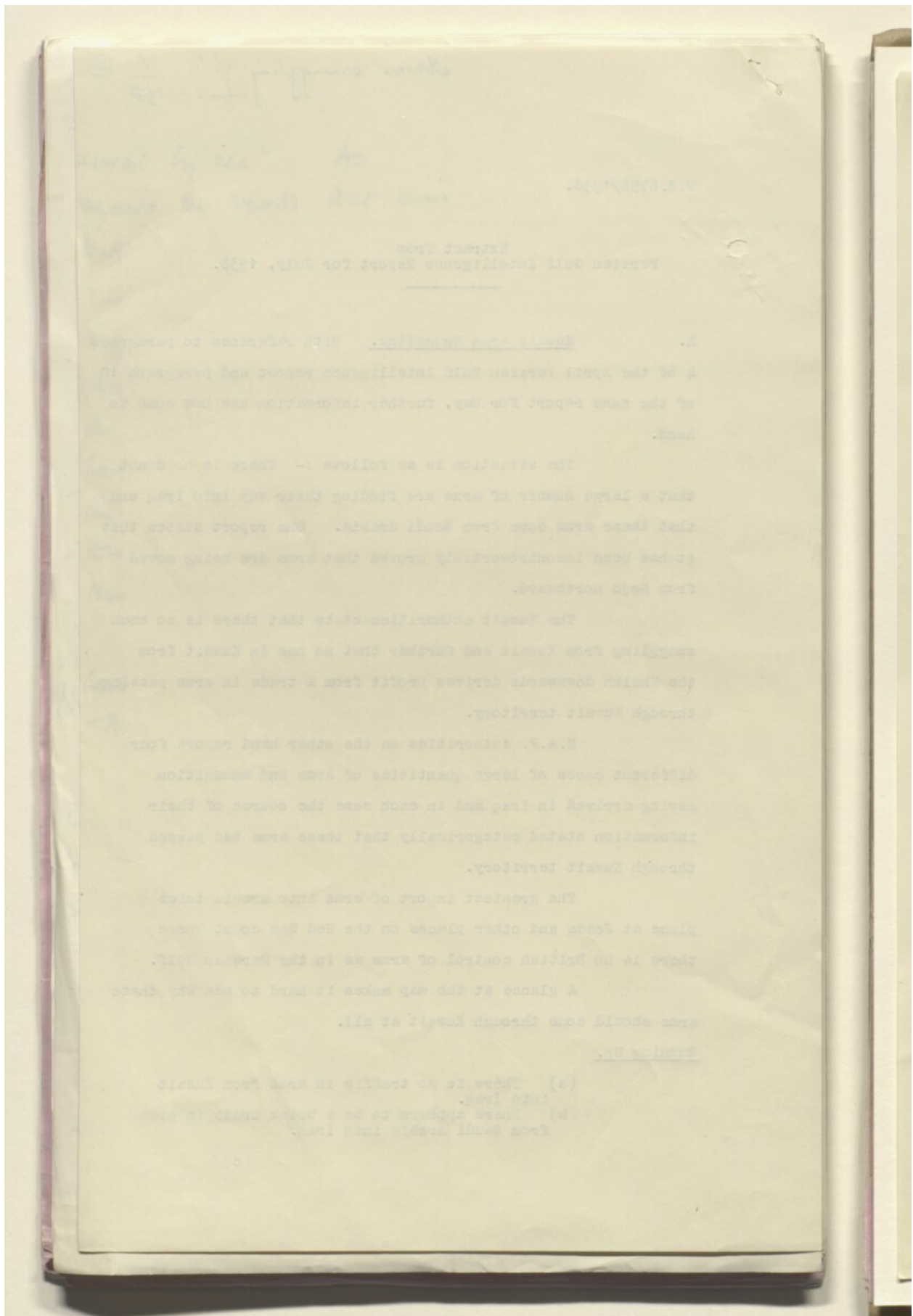
A glance at the map makes it hard to see why these arms should come through Kuwait at all.

Summing Up.

- (a) There is no traffic in arms from Kuwait into Iraq.
- (b) There appears to be a brisk trade in arms from Saudi Arabia into Iraq.

(c)/





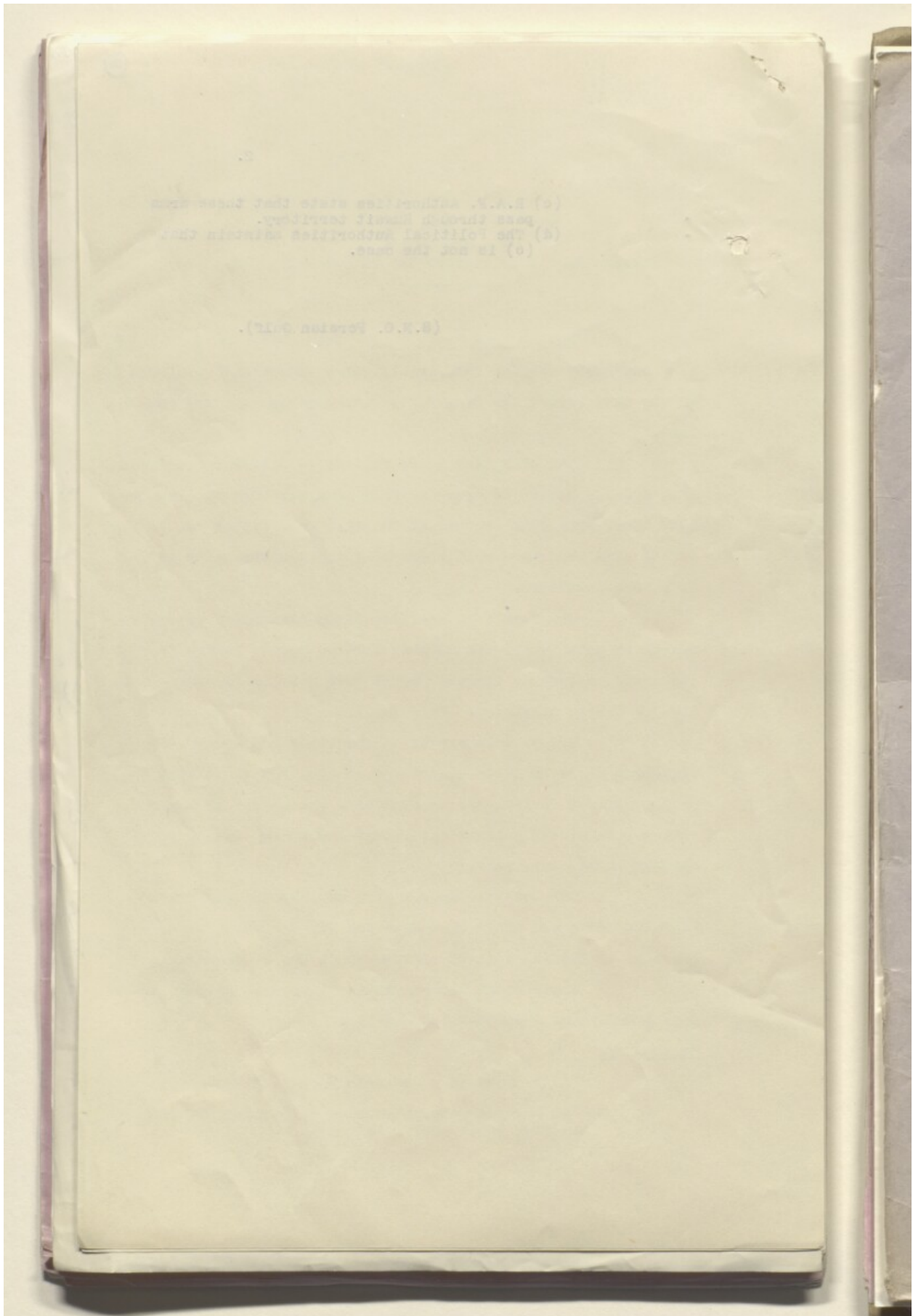


59

2.

- (c) R.A.F. Authorities state that these arms pass through Kuwait territory.
- (d) The Political Authorities maintain that (c) is not the case.

(S.N.O. Persian Gulf).







(60)

**INDEXED**  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Department.  
**5537**  
**EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).**

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]

No. 427-S Bushire,  
Dated ~~21st July~~ the 21st July 19 38

To <sup>XX</sup>  
From - Political Resident, Bushire.  
To - The Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq, Habbaniya.  
Repeated H.M. Secretary of State for India, London. ✓  
The Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, Simla. ✓  
His Majesty's Ambassador, Bagdad. ✓  
Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf. ✓  
Political Agent, Kuwait. ✓

Reference my letter under reference.

Subject: Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

5537/38 With reference to your letter No.3.10815/6/Air I, dated the 28th June 1938, I have the following comments to offer.

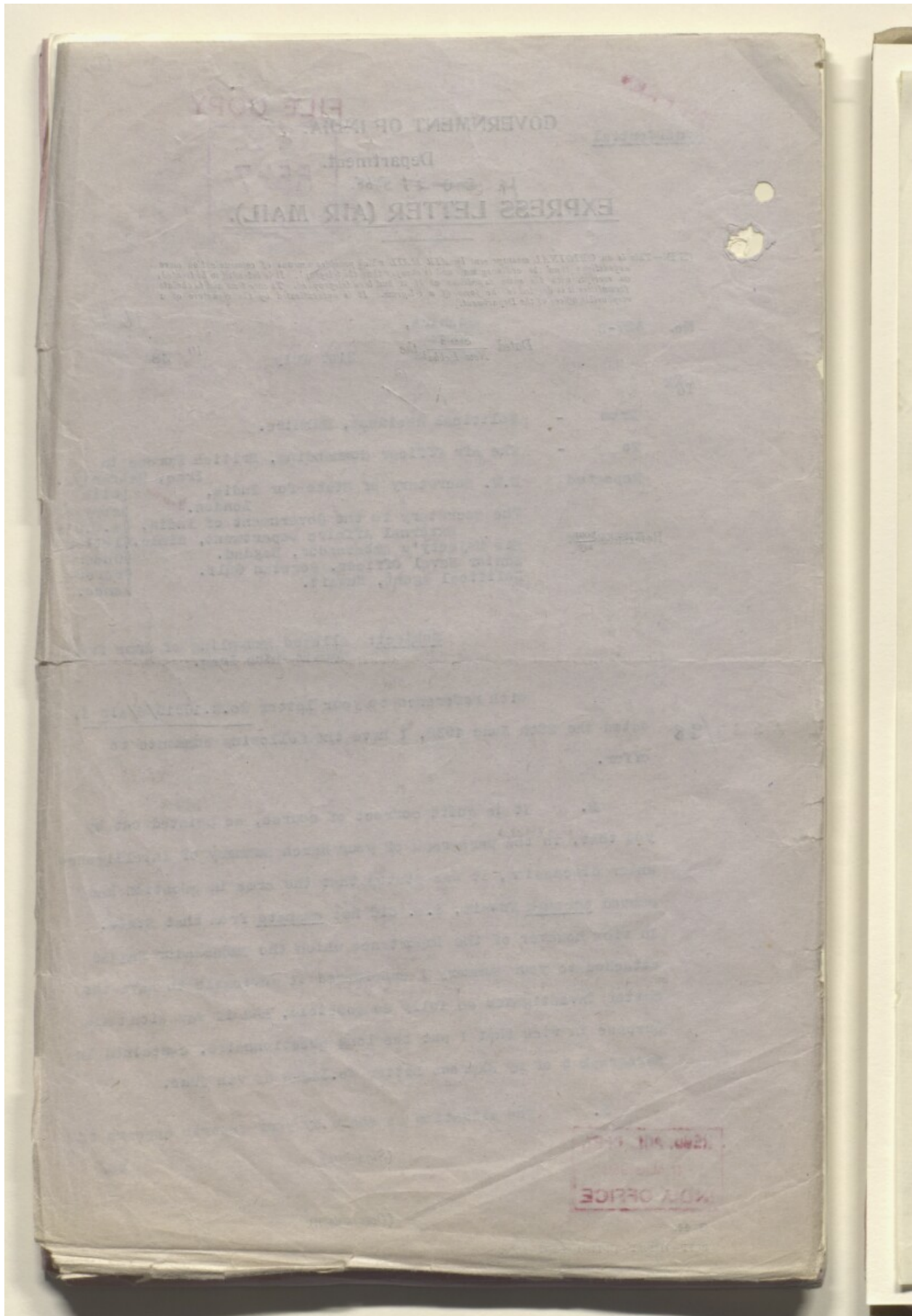
2. It is quite correct of course, as pointed out by you that, in the paragraph of your March Summary of Intelligence under discussion, it was stated that the arms in question had passed through Kuwait, i.e. did not emanate from that State. In view however of the importance which the Ambassador Bagdad attached to your Summary I considered it advisable to have the matter investigated as fully as possible, and it was with this purpose in view that I put the long questionnaire, contained in paragraph 5 of my Express Letter No.342-S of 7th June.

3. The situation as shown by your reports appears to

(Signature) be/  
(Designation)

REGD. POL. DEPT.  
8 AUG 1938  
INDIA OFFICE

S. 44.  
DCFP-11248AP-(M-1314)-4-8-32-12600.







-2-

be as summarized in paragraph 2 of your letter.

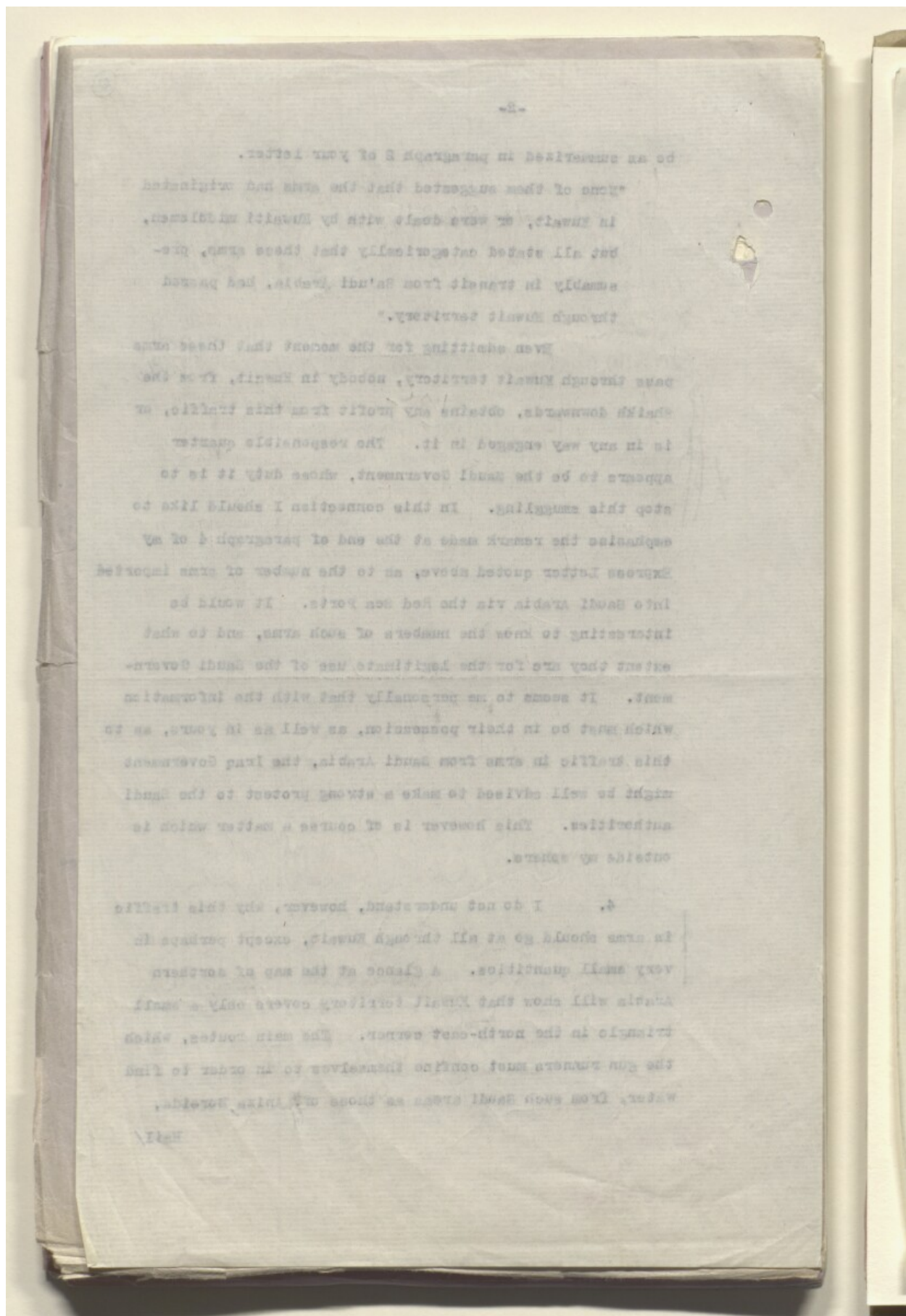
"None of them suggested that the arms had originated in Kuwait, or were dealt with by Kuwaiti middlemen, but all stated categorically that these arms, presumably in transit from Sa'udi Arabia, had passed through Kuwait territory."

Even admitting for the moment that these arms pass through Kuwait territory, nobody in Kuwait, from the Shaikh downwards, obtains any profit from this traffic, or is in any way engaged in it. The responsible quarter appears to be the Saudi Government, whose duty it is to stop this smuggling. In this connection I should like to emphasise the remark made at the end of paragraph 4 of my Express Letter quoted above, as to the number of arms imported into Saudi Arabia via the Red Sea Ports. It would be interesting to know the numbers of such arms, and to what extent they are for the legitimate use of the Saudi Government. It seems to me personally that with the information which must be in their possession, as well as in yours, as to this traffic in arms from Saudi Arabia, the Iraq Government might be well advised to make a strong protest to the Saudi authorities. This however is of course a matter which is outside my sphere.

4. I do not understand, however, why this traffic in arms should go at all through Kuwait, except perhaps in very small quantities. A glance at the map of northern Arabia will show that Kuwait territory covers only a small triangle in the north-east corner. The main routes, which the gun runners must confine themselves to in order to find water, from such Saudi areas as those of Aniza, Boreida,

Hail/







-3-

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Hail, Jauf etc., to the places mentioned by you on the Euphrates, such as Samawa, and the Muntafiq area, pass well to the west of Kuwait territory. I do not see therefore why the gun runners should proceed some hundreds of miles out of their way for the purpose of passing through Kuwait territory.

5. Another point which I do not understand is why the Iraqi authorities themselves do not take more active measures to deal with the gun running, especially since some at least of the gun runners are actually Iraqi tribesmen (e.g. the Al Zaiyad, paragraph 3(c) of your letter, Hussainat and Ghazzi, paragraph 3(a) of your letter). The Iraqi - Saudi frontier is of course of considerable extent, but as the gun runners approach their destination, e.g. Samawa, they enter territory which presumably is under the control of the local Iraqi authorities.

6. I note, vide paragraph 6 of your letter, that efforts are being made to obtain the information asked for in paragraph 5 of my questionnaire. I quite realize however, as you point out, that this may be impossible.

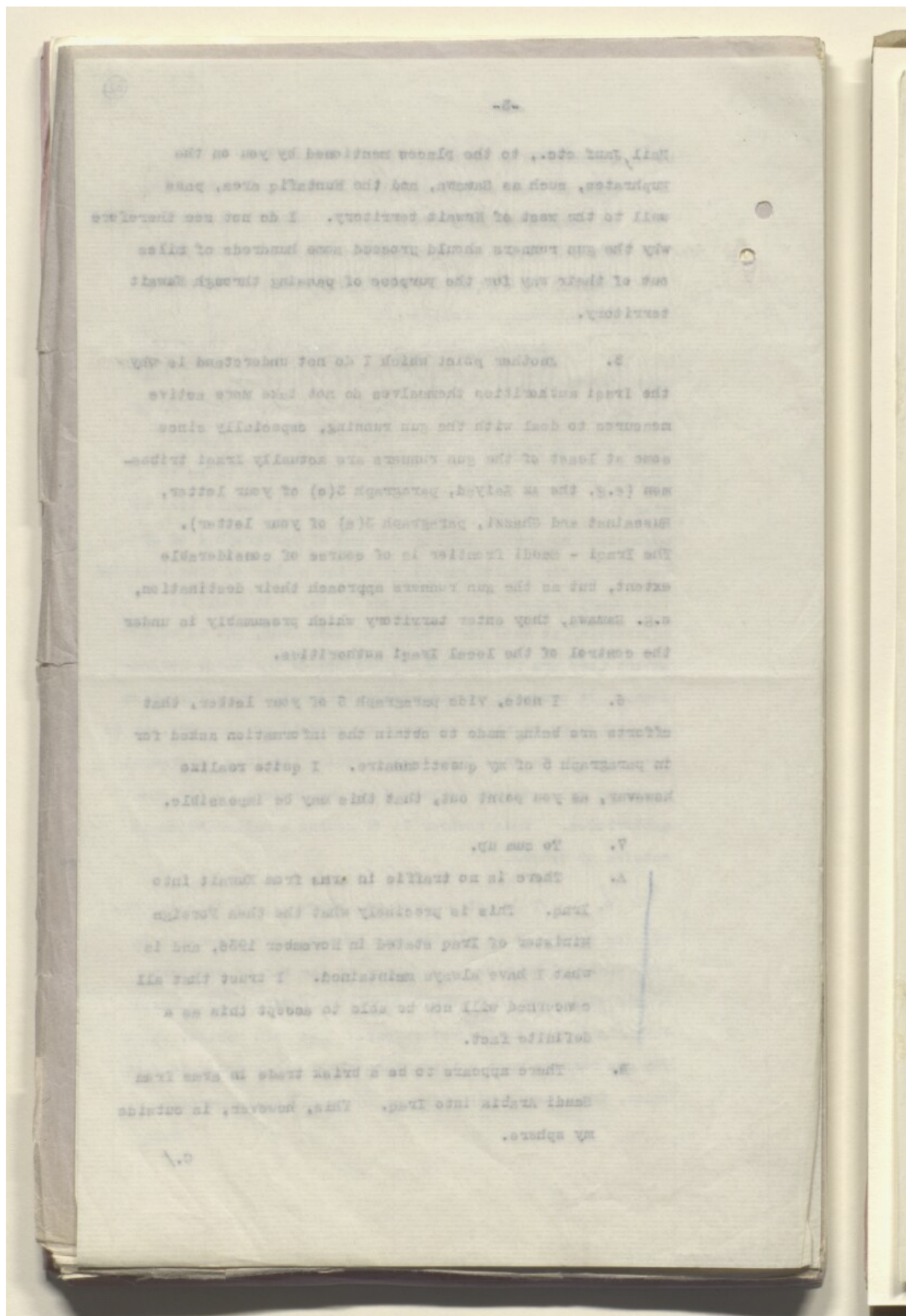
7. To sum up.

A. There is no traffic in arms from Kuwait into Iraq. This is precisely what the then Foreign Minister of Iraq stated in November 1936, and is what I have always maintained. I trust that all concerned will now be able to accept this as a definite fact.

B. There appears to be a brisk trade in arms from Saudi Arabia into Iraq. This, however, is outside my sphere.

C./









-4-

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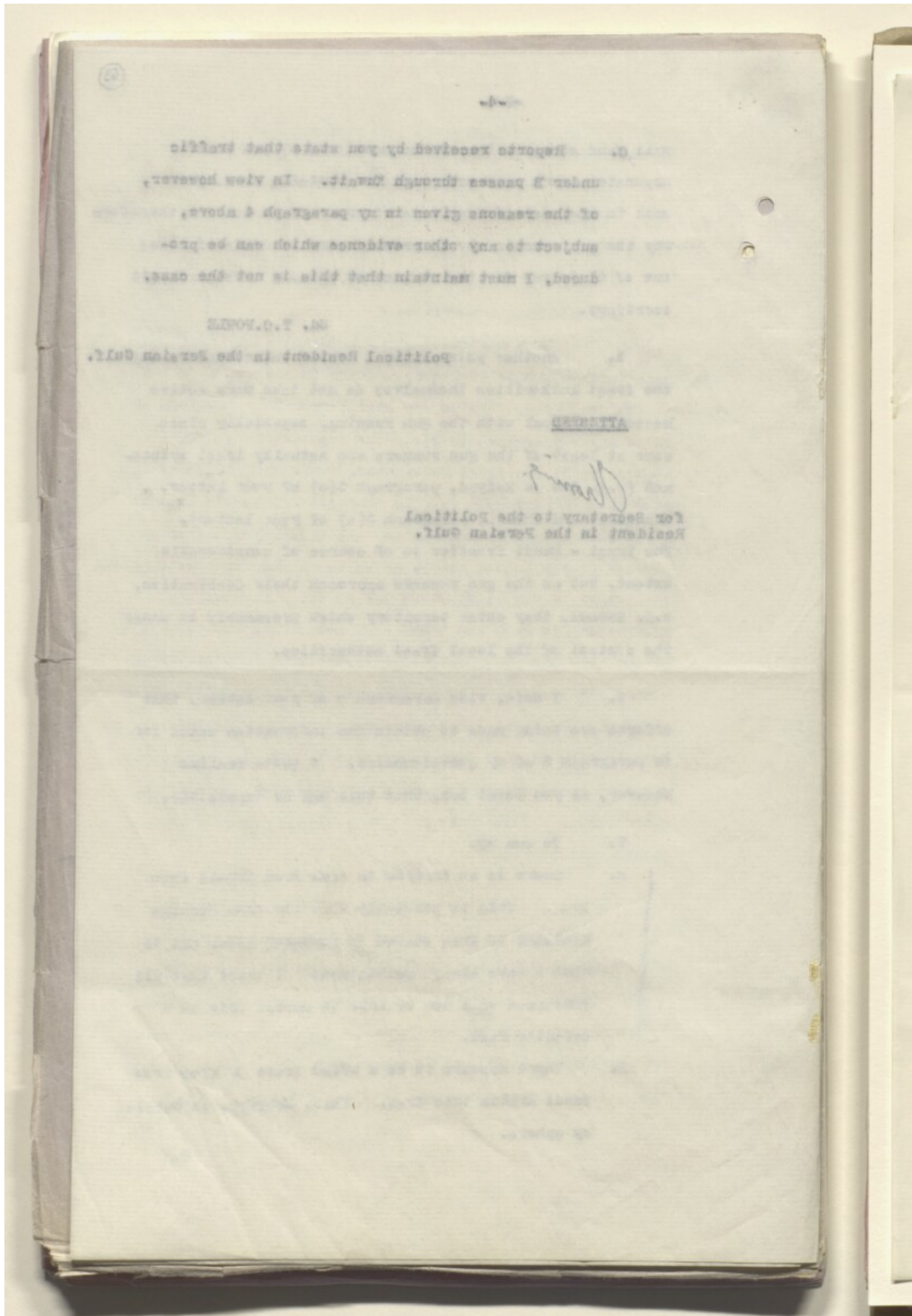
G. Reports received by you state that traffic under B passes through Kuwait. In view however, of the reasons given in my paragraph 4 above, subject to any other evidence which can be produced, I must maintain that this is not the case.

Gd. T.C.FOWLE

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

ATTESTED

for Secretary to the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.







Secret



Air Headquarters,  
British Forces in Iraq,  
Habbaniya.  
28th June 1938.

Subject: Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait  
into Iraq.  
-----

Sir,

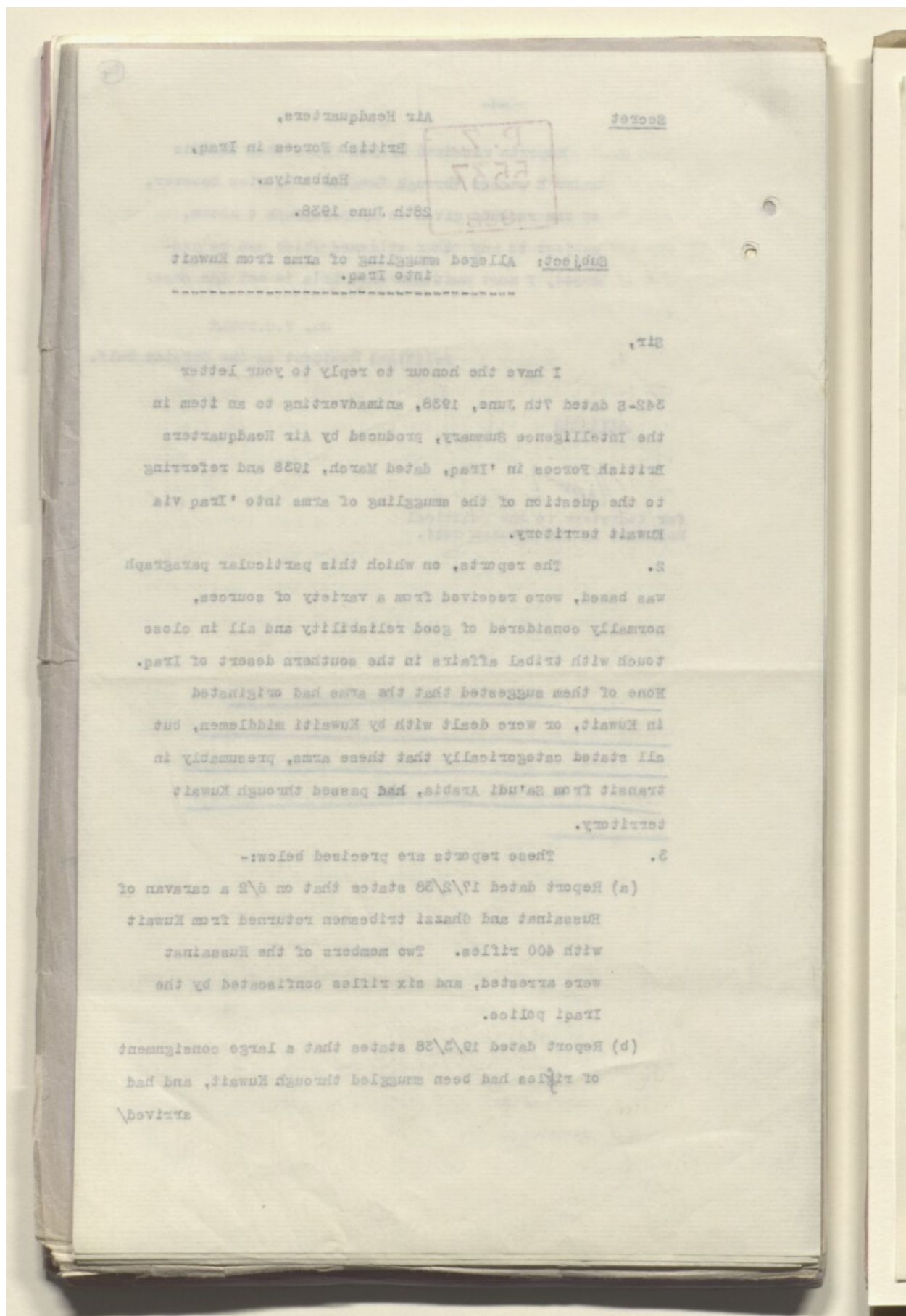
I have the honour to reply to your letter 342-S dated 7th June, 1938, animadverting to an item in the Intelligence Summary, produced by Air Headquarters British Forces in 'Iraq, dated March, 1938 and referring to the question of the smuggling of arms into 'Iraq via Kuwait territory.

2. The reports, on which this particular paragraph was based, were received from a variety of sources, normally considered of good reliability and all in close touch with tribal affairs in the southern desert of Iraq. None of them suggested that the arms had originated in Kuwait, or were dealt with by Kuwaiti middlemen, but all stated categorically that these arms, presumably in transit from Sa'udi Arabia, had passed through Kuwait territory.

3. These reports are precised below:-

- (a) Report dated 17/2/38 states that on 6/2 a caravan of Hussainat and Ghazzi tribesmen returned from Kuwait with 400 rifles. Two members of the Hussainat were arrested, and six rifles confiscated by the Iraqi police.
- (b) Report dated 19/3/38 states that a large consignment of rifles had been smuggled through Kuwait, and had arrived/







-2-

arrived in the Muntafiq for distribution to the Shuraifat, Budur, and Jawarin.

(c) Report dated 12/4/38 states a large caravan arrived Samawa, having come through Kuwait and thence via Rukhaimiya, with a large number of rifles and other smuggled goods. The caravan was in charge of Dhafir and Az Zaiyad tribesmen; the date of its arrival at Samawa being given as 4/4/38.

(d) On the same date 200 rifles with ammunition were seized by the Iraqi police near Luqait; these were likewise reported to have arrived via Kuwait. Official confirmation of this report was not obtainable.

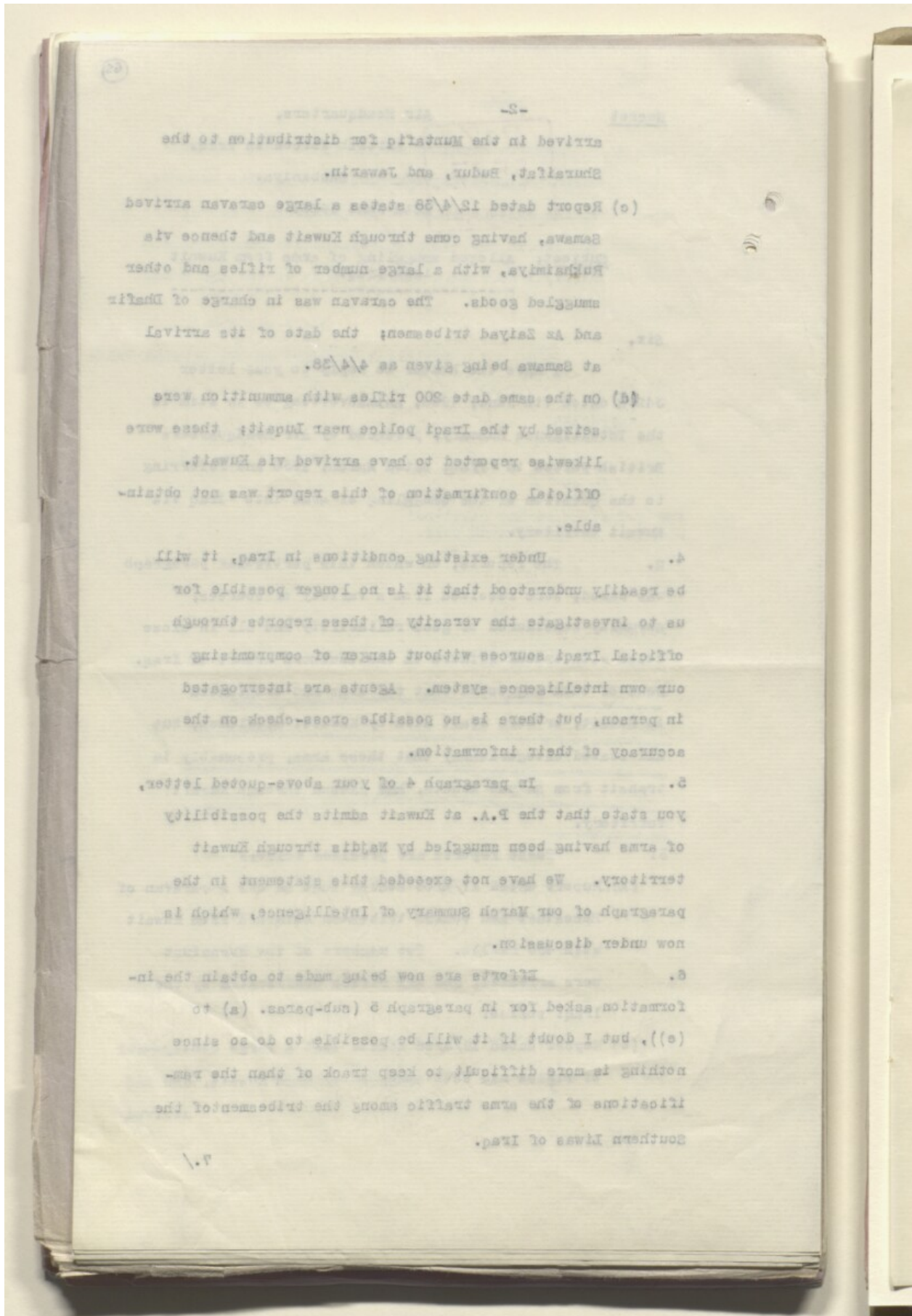
4. Under existing conditions in Iraq, it will be readily understood that it is no longer possible for us to investigate the veracity of these reports through official Iraqi sources without danger of compromising our own intelligence system. Agents are interrogated in person, but there is no possible cross-check on the accuracy of their information.

5. In paragraph 4 of your above-quoted letter, you state that the P.A. at Kuwait admits the possibility of arms having been smuggled by Najdis through Kuwait territory. We have not exceeded this statement in the paragraph of our March Summary of Intelligence, which is now under discussion.

6. Efforts are now being made to obtain the information asked for in paragraph 5 (sub-paras. (a) to (e)), but I doubt if it will be possible to do so since nothing is more difficult to keep track of than the ramifications of the arms traffic among the tribesmen of the Southern Liwas of Iraq.

7./









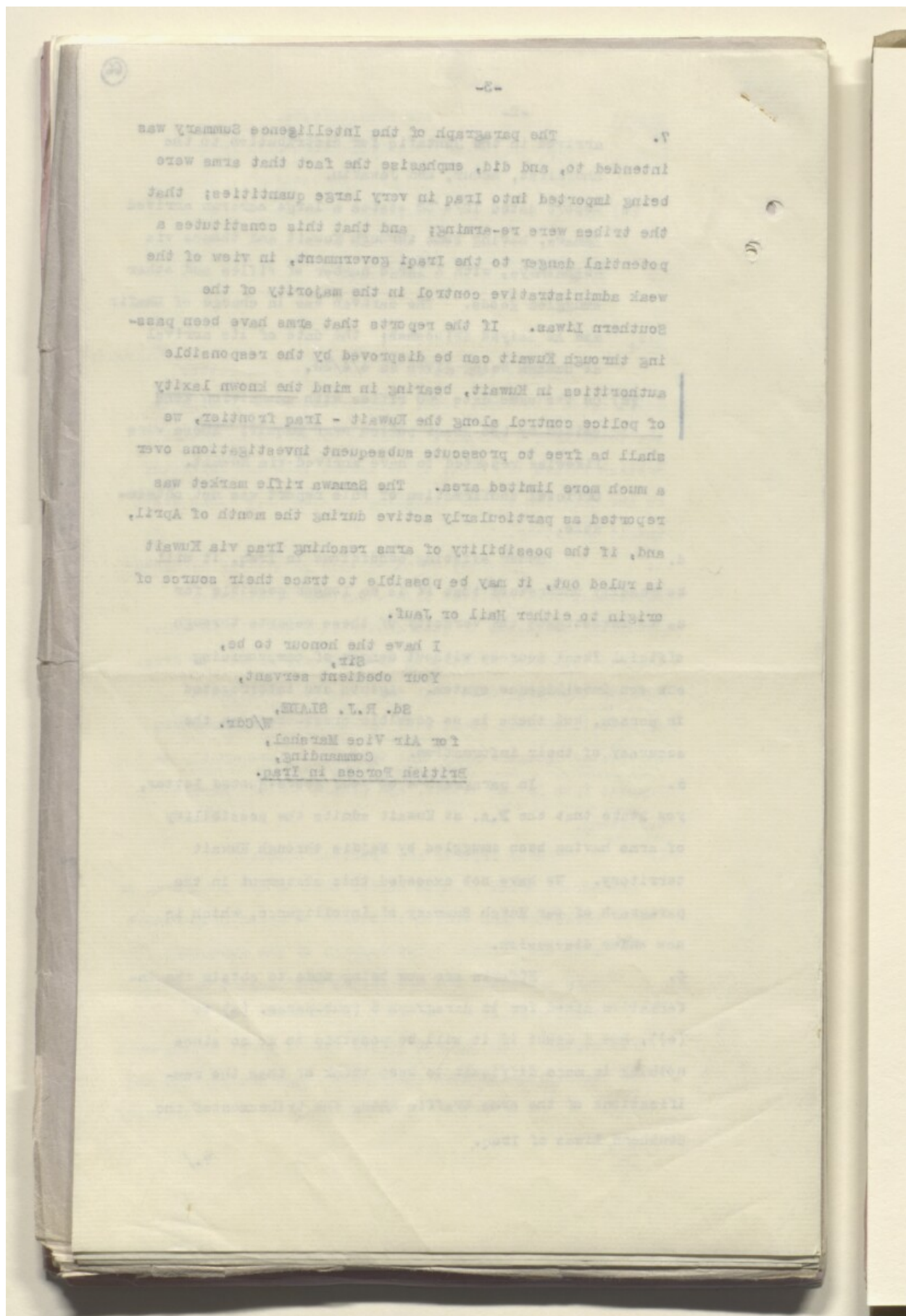
-3-

66

7. The paragraph of the Intelligence Summary was intended to, and did, emphasise the fact that arms were being imported into Iraq in very large quantities; that the tribes were re-arming; and that this constitutes a potential danger to the Iraqi government, in view of the weak administrative control in the majority of the Southern Liwas. If the reports that arms have been passing through Kuwait can be disproved by the responsible authorities in Kuwait, bearing in mind the known laxity of police control along the Kuwait - Iraq frontier, we shall be free to prosecute subsequent investigations over a much more limited area. The Samawa rifle market was reported as particularly active during the month of April, and, if the possibility of arms reaching Iraq via Kuwait is ruled out, it may be possible to trace their source of origin to either Hail or Jauif.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Sd. R.J. SLADE,  
W/Cdr.  
for Air Vice Marshal,  
Commanding,  
British Forces in Iraq.







(67)

**INDEXED**

With the compliments of the  
Secretary of the Admiralty.

**FILE COPY**

**Secret.**  
5468  
1938

Admiralty.  
4th August, 1938.

Wm L. P.R.  
high  
P.A. Kowait  
+ keep  
M 4474  
col 7/42  
H.M.  
200  
m.s.

ENVELOPPE IN AIR MAIL LETTER  
NO. 32 4 29 AUG 1938  
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

COPY SENT TO Bushire  
Admiralty Ref. No. M.03097/38 + Kowait.

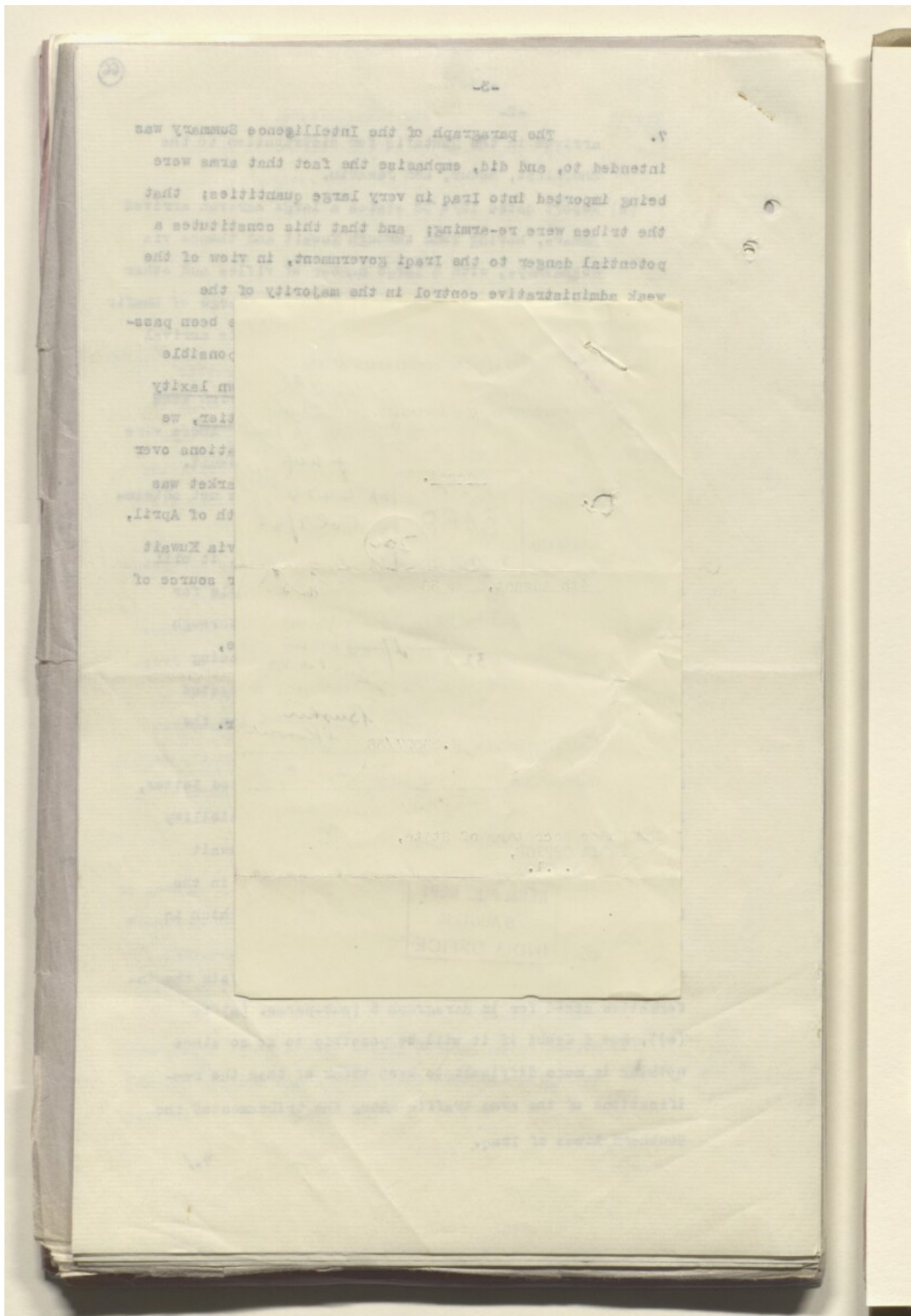
Your Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

The Under Secretary of State,  
INDIA OFFICE,  
S.W.1.

**RECD. POL. DEPT.**  
5 AUG 1938  
INDIA OFFICE

52a







M.03097/38

4th August,

8

Secret.

Sir,

With further reference to Foreign Office letter No. E 2498/75/91, dated 10th May, and to Mr. T.V. Brennan's semi-official letter No.E 2498/75/91, dated 12th May, 1938, concerning the alleged traffic in arms from Koweit into Iraq, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that enquiries have been made by the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, who reports that it now appears certain that very few if any arms enter Koweit by sea.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office and Air Ministry.

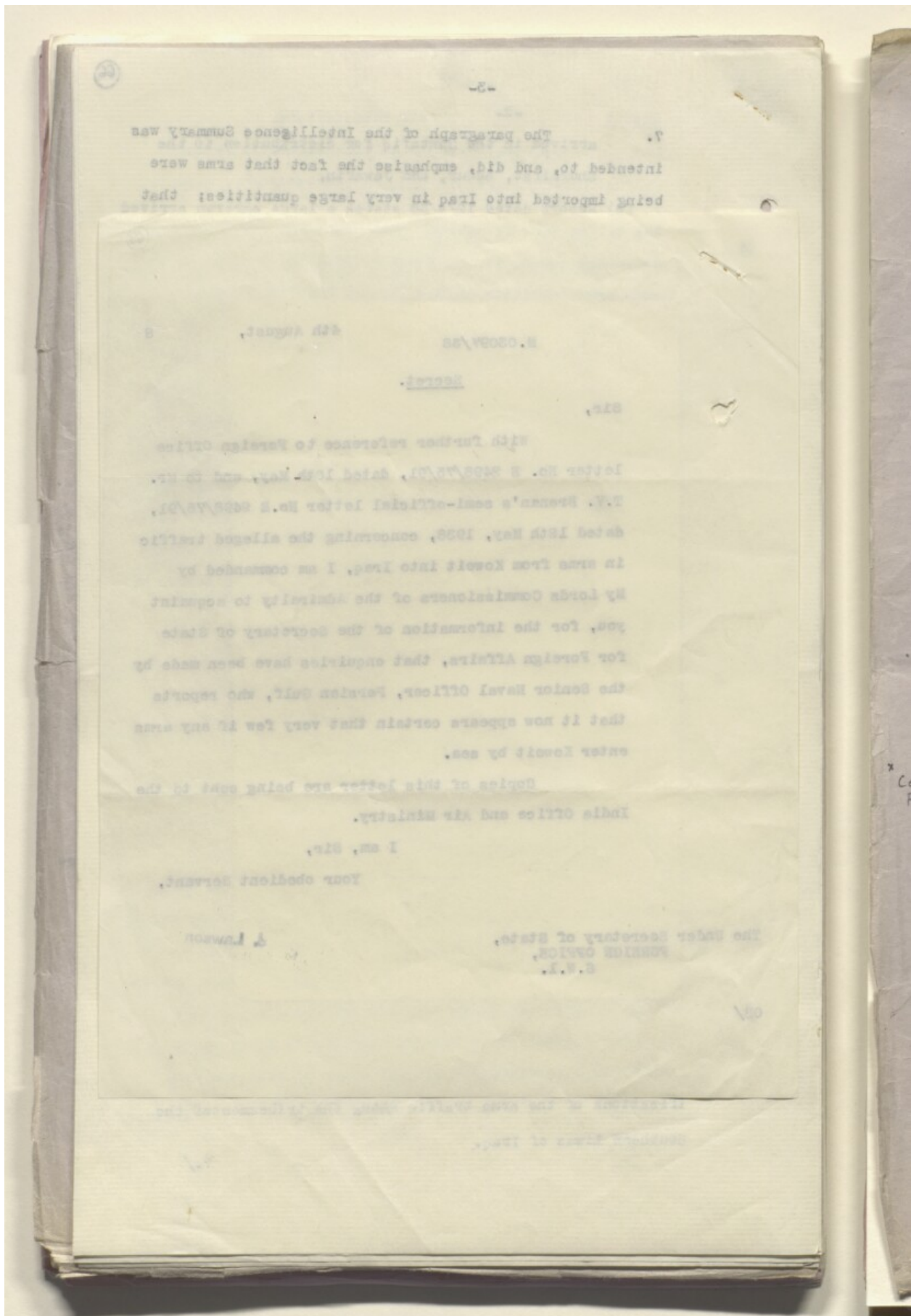
I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,  
FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S.W.1.

J. Lawson

OB/







(6)

P. Z.  
4474  
1938

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Department.

INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL

EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]

No. 342-S Dated <sup>Simla</sup> Basra, the 7th June 1938

To XX

From - Political Resident, Basra.

To - The Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq, Habbaniyah.

Repeated Reference <sup>your</sup> <sub>my</sub> His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London. ✓

XXXXXXXXX The Secretary to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, Simla.

His Majesty's Ambassador, Bagdad.

Political Agent, Kuwait.

2 Hk 3626  
42

Subject: Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

I enclose herewith a copy of Ambassador, Bagdad's letter No.47/3/38, dated the 16th April 1938, and also, for ready reference, a copy of the extract referred to by Ambassador. I also enclose a copy of a memorandum No.C-188, dated 21st May 1938, from Political Agent, Kuwait, whom I asked to make investigations into the matter.

2. For some years past the Iraqi Government have continued to bring accusations of arms smuggling against Kuwait, hitherto without producing any evidence whatsoever. In fact, in November 1936 Naji Asil, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, who had visited Kuwait, declared to the Political Agent, that after discussion with the Shaikh, he was convinced that the Mutasarrif of Basra's report, and other reports about arms smuggling were entirely (Signature) erroneous. /

(Designation)

ERRONEOUS. /

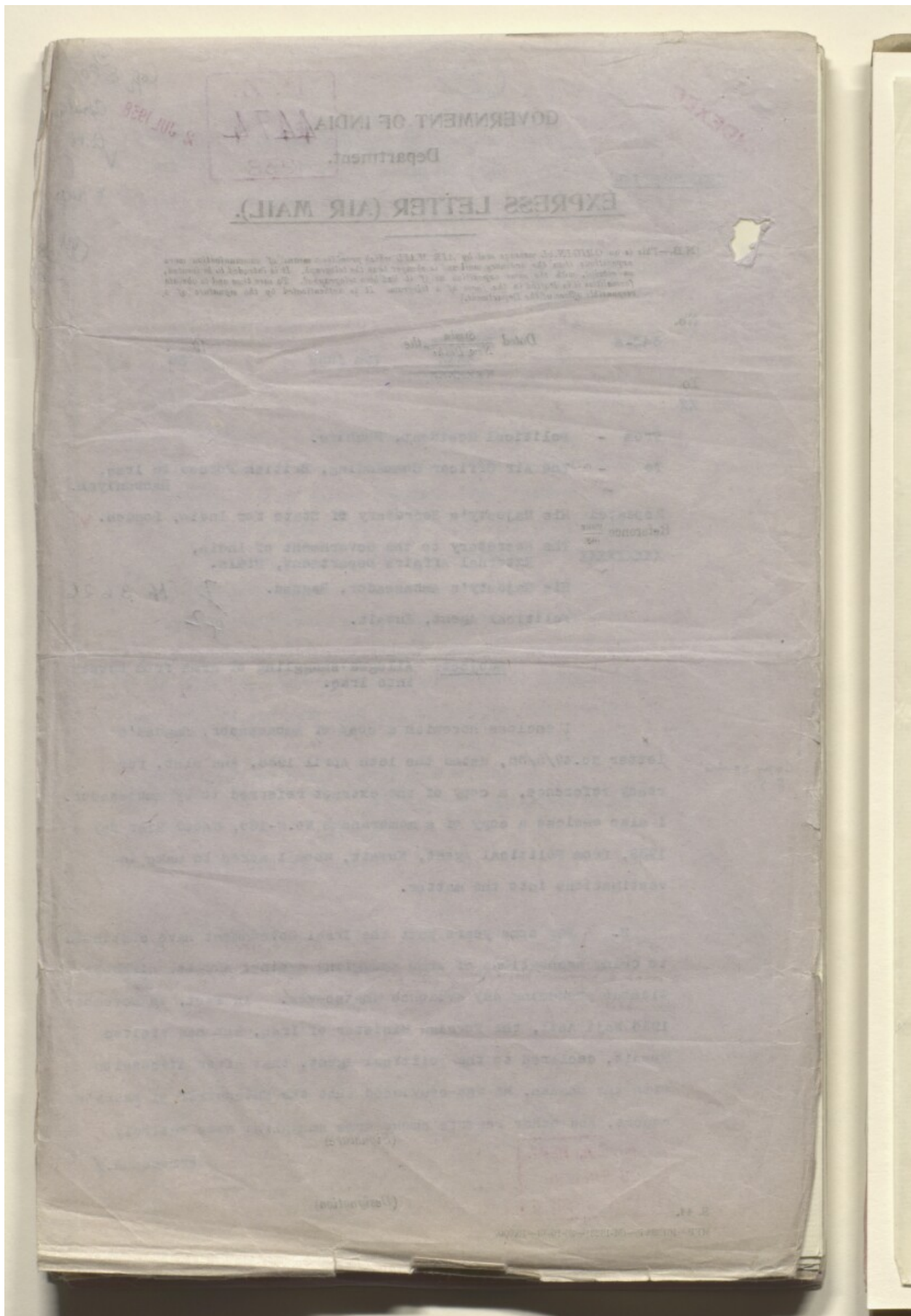
S. 44.

MFP-10138&P-(M-1323)-30-10-53-10,000.

RECD. POL. DEPT.  
28 JUN 1938  
INDIA OFFICE

Copy to P.O.  
2 JUL 1938  
A.M.  
x Keep  
CM 18/6

Copy sent to P.O.







-2-

erroneous. (This information was conveyed to you in my letter No.C/243, dated 28th November 1936, and to the India Office, the Government of India and the Embassy, Bagdad, in my Printed Letter No.830-S, dated 9th November 1936). Presumably as Foreign Minister, Maji Asil was the best authority on the subject.

3. Since that date the Iraq Government have again occasionally brought up the accusation of arms smuggling against Kuwait, but as usual without any evidence in support of their allegations.

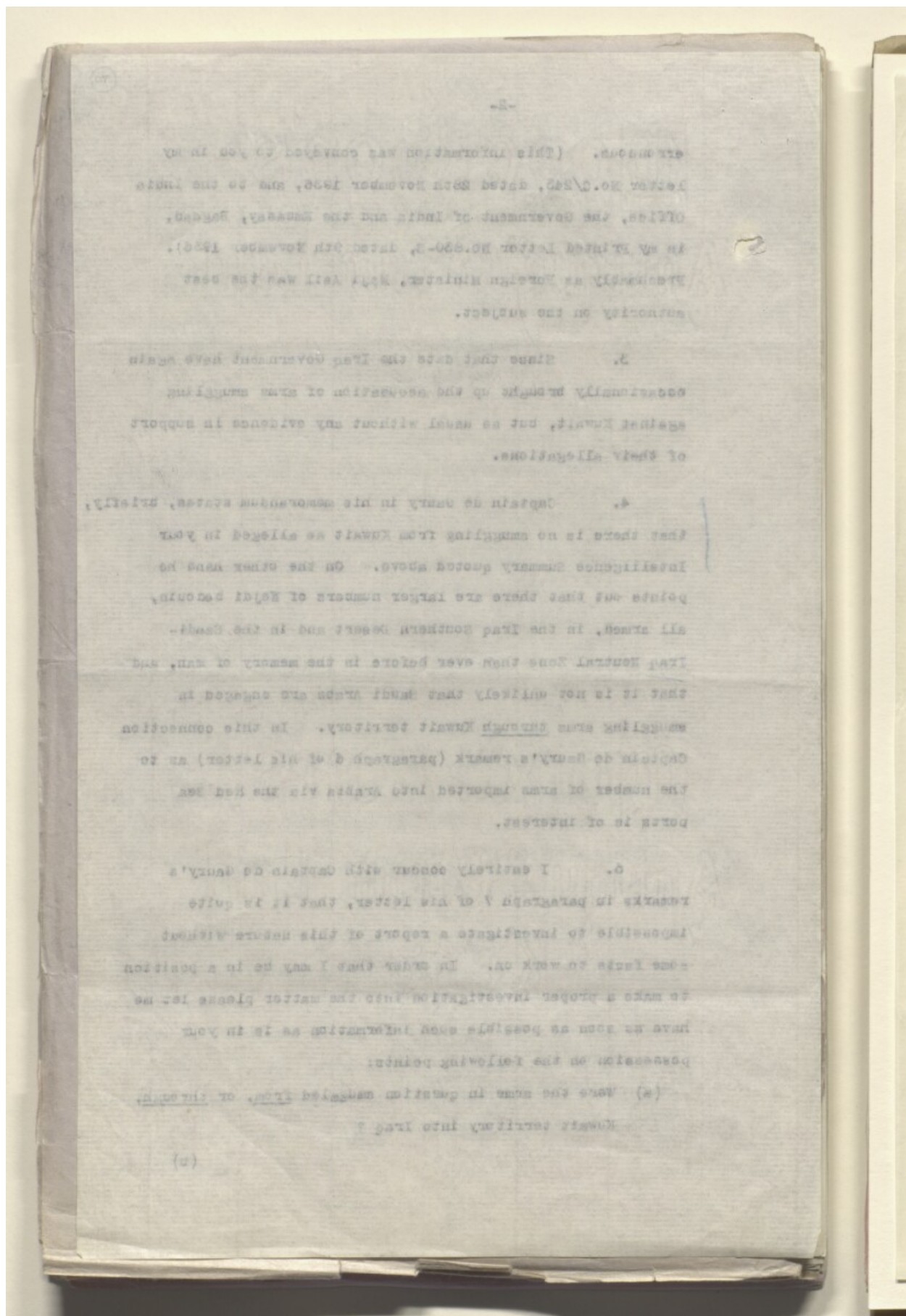
4. Captain de Gaury in his memorandum states, briefly, that there is no smuggling from Kuwait as alleged in your Intelligence Summary quoted above. On the other hand he points out that there are larger numbers of Hejdi bedouin, all armed, in the Iraq Southern Desert and in the Saudi-Iraq Neutral Zone than ever before in the memory of man, and that it is not unlikely that Saudi Arabs are engaged in smuggling arms through Kuwait territory. In this connection Captain de Gaury's remark (paragraph 6 of his letter) as to the number of arms imported into Arabia via the Red Sea ports is of interest.

5. I entirely concur with Captain de Gaury's remarks in paragraph 7 of his letter, that it is quite impossible to investigate a report of this nature without some facts to work on. In order that I may be in a position to make a proper investigation into the matter please let me have as soon as possible such information as is in your possession on the following points:

(a) Were the arms in question smuggled from, or through, Kuwait territory into Iraq?

(b)







-3-

(b) If from Kuwait territory then:

were they smuggled from Kuwait Town, or from the  
Kuwait hinterland ?

(c) In either case

(1) What was the country of origin of the arms ?

(2) Who were the consignors ?

(3) How did the arms arrive in Kuwait territory ?

If by sea were they shipped by steamer or dhow ?

(4) Who were the individuals to whom they were  
consigned ?

(5) Who were the individuals (Tribal Shaikhs etc.)  
who actually did the smuggling ?

(6) By what route were the arms conveyed ?

(7) What tribal Shaikhs at Iraq actually received  
the arms ?

(d) If the arms were smuggled through Kuwait, similar  
information as under (c) (1) to (7).

(e) In the case of either (c) or (d)

(1) What roughly is the number of rifles smuggled ?  
What is their make ?

(2) Ditto for ammunition ?

(3) What were the dates on which especially large  
consignments of arms were smuggled, by whom, and  
by what route ?

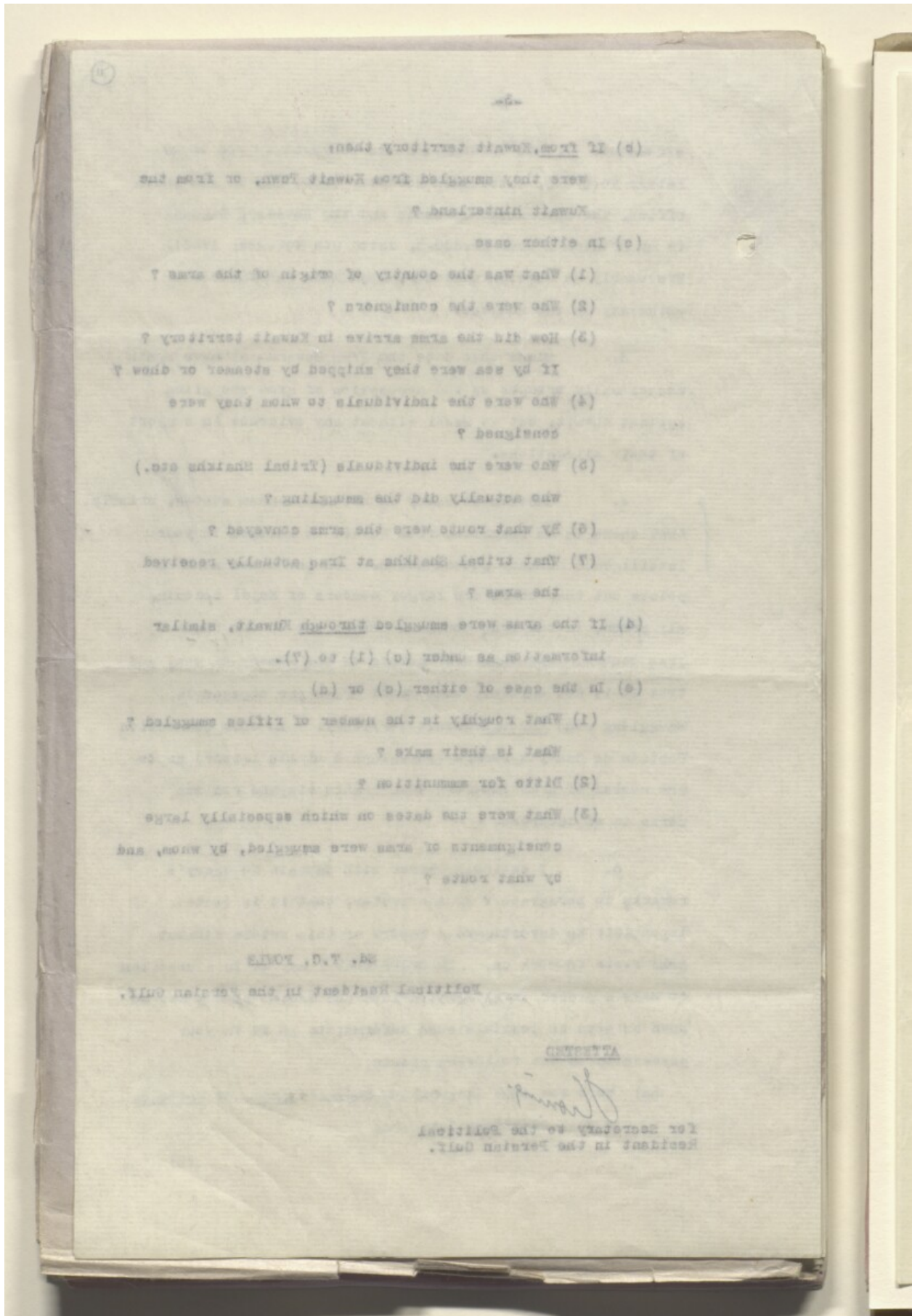
Sd. T.C. FOWLE

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

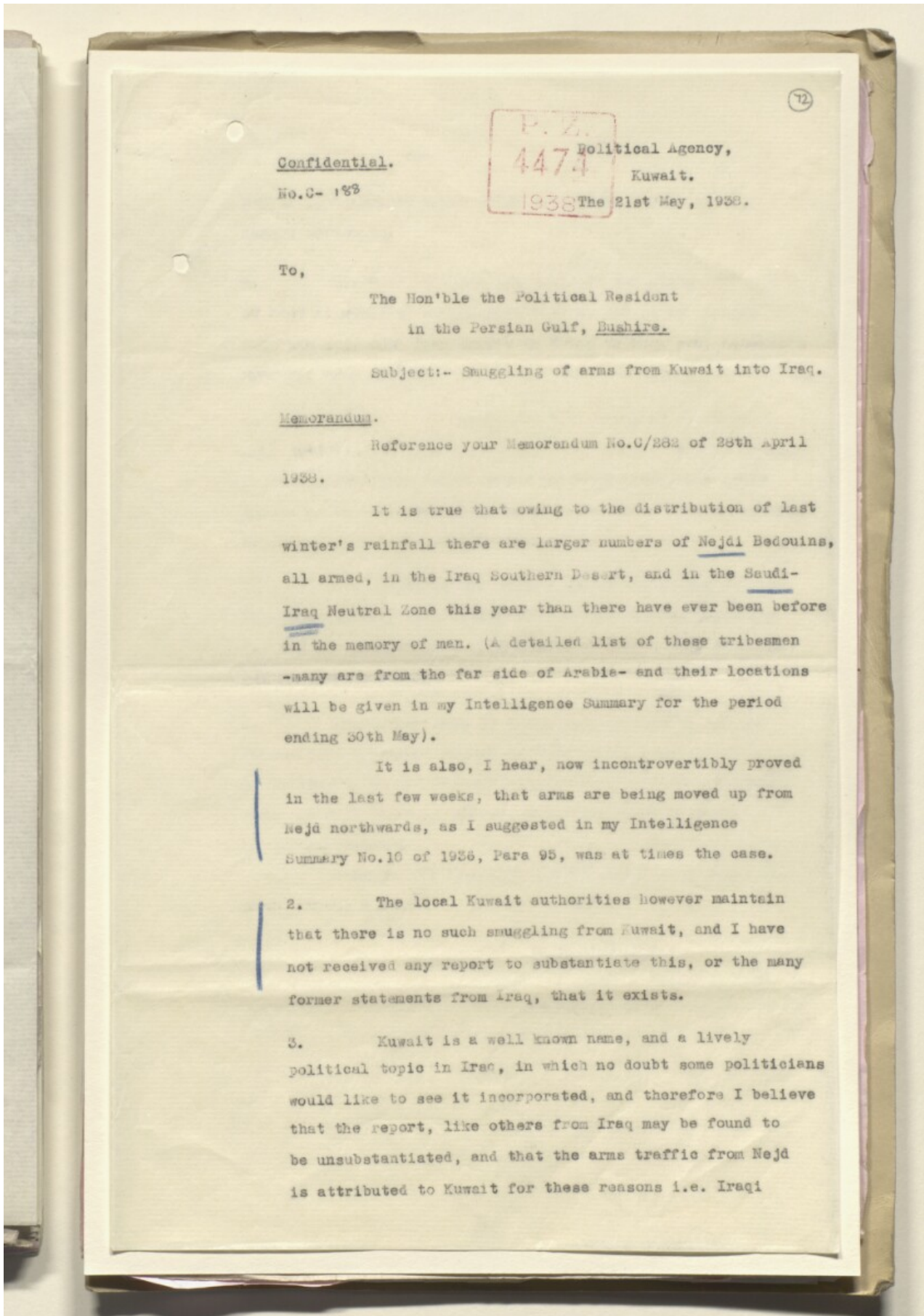
ATTESTED

for Secretary to the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.



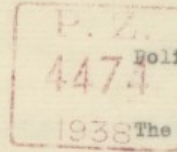






Confidential.

No.C- 182



Political Agency,

Kuwait.

The 21st May, 1938.

To,

The Hon'ble the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Subject:- Smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

Memorandum.

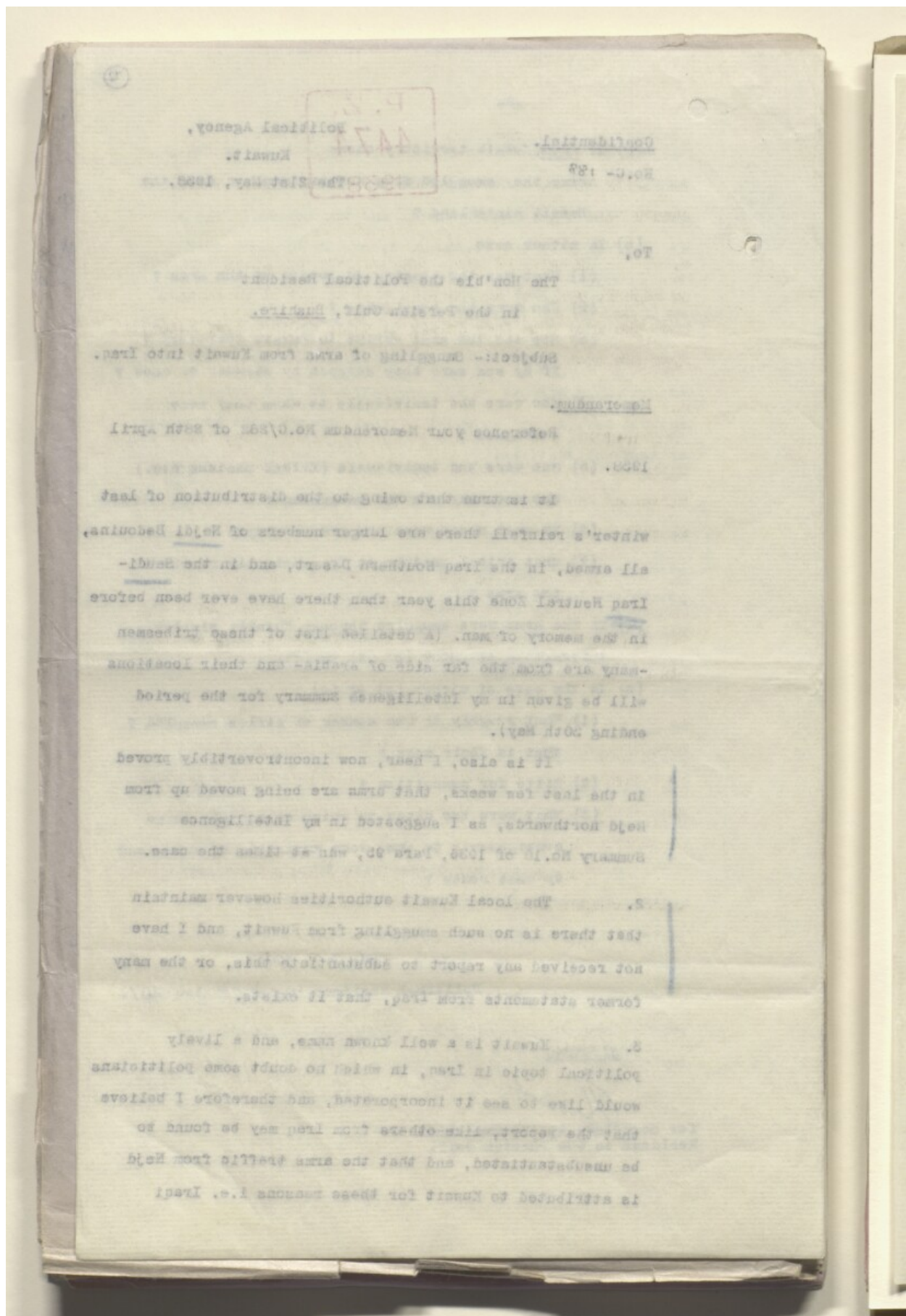
Reference your Memorandum No.C/282 of 28th April  
1938.

It is true that owing to the distribution of last  
winter's rainfall there are larger numbers of Nejdi Bedouins,  
all armed, in the Iraq Southern Desert, and in the Saudi-  
Iraq Neutral Zone this year than there have ever been before  
in the memory of man. (A detailed list of these tribesmen  
-many are from the far side of Arabia- and their locations  
will be given in my Intelligence Summary for the period  
ending 30th May).

It is also, I hear, now incontrovertibly proved  
in the last few weeks, that arms are being moved up from  
Nejd northwards, as I suggested in my Intelligence  
Summary No.10 of 1936, Para 95, was at times the case.

2. The local Kuwait authorities however maintain  
that there is no such smuggling from Kuwait, and I have  
not received any report to substantiate this, or the many  
former statements from Iraq, that it exists.

3. Kuwait is a well known name, and a lively  
political topic in Iraq, in which no doubt some politicians  
would like to see it incorporated, and therefore I believe  
that the report, like others from Iraq may be found to  
be unsubstantiated, and that the arms traffic from Nejd  
is attributed to Kuwait for these reasons i.e. Iraqi







73

-2-

politics, ignorance about other centres in Nejd, and of desert economics.

4. Moreover if Saudi Arabians are smuggling arms out of Nejd it would of course suit them to let it be thought that the arms come from Kuwait in order to turn away attention from the true source.

5. Kuwait is certainly not the source of an abnormal arms traffic, and as I have previously pointed out the greatest import of arms into Arabia takes place at Jedda, and other places on the Red Sea Coast, where there is no British control of arms imported as in the Persian Gulf.

6. A computation and comparison of the number of arms imported annually into Arabia (a) via the Red Sea ports and (b) via the Persian Gulf will I believe give a very different and remarkable result.

7. Apart from this it would seem useless to try to investigate a general report of this nature, completely at variance with the information available locally, without some facts to go on, - places, dates and names of people or tribes engaged.

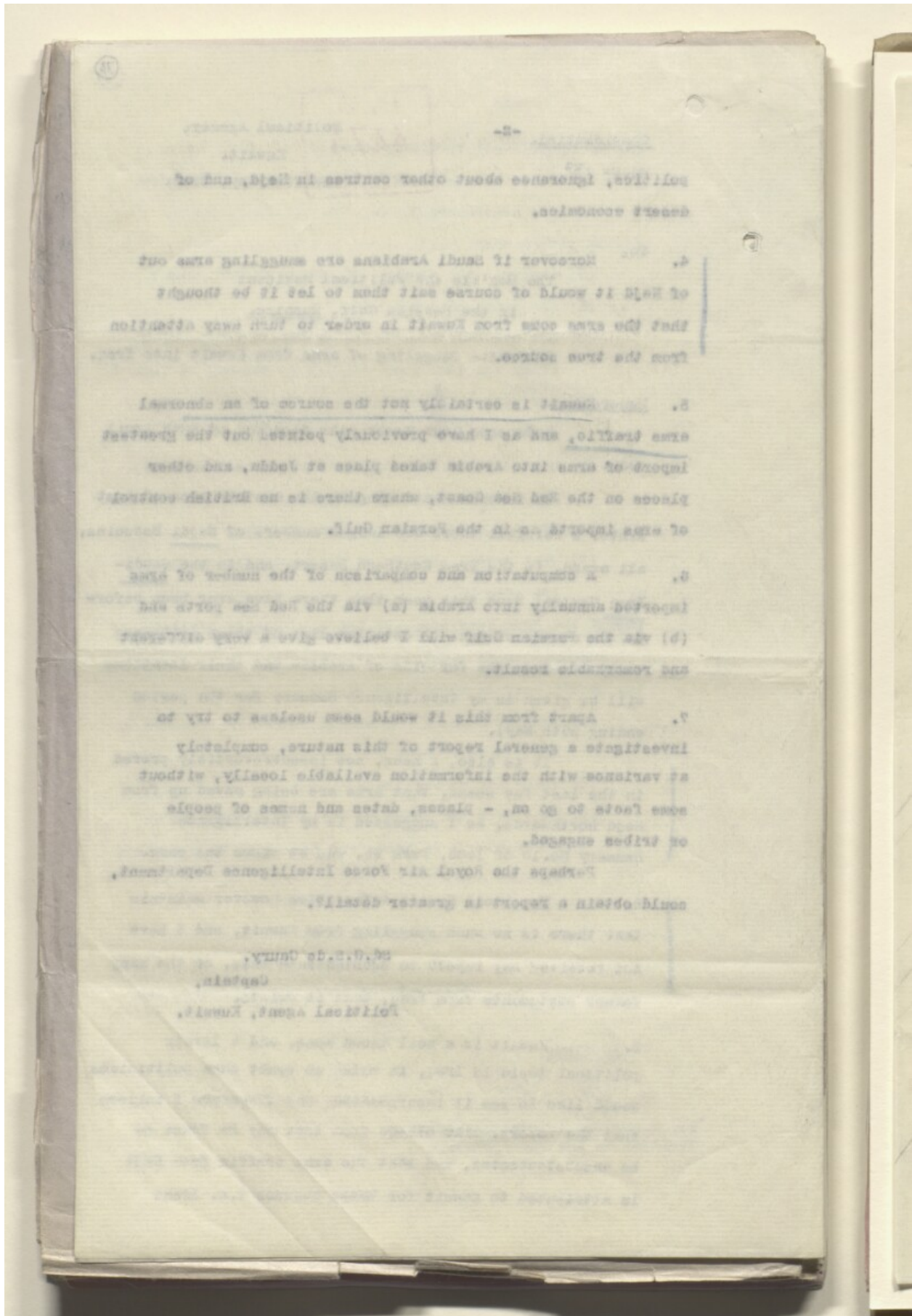
Perhaps the Royal Air Force Intelligence Department, could obtain a report in greater detail?

Sd.G.S.de Gaury.

Captain,

Political Agent, Kuwait.







Extract from Kuwait Intelligence Summary No.10  
for the period ending 30/6/56.

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95. Tribal Locations.

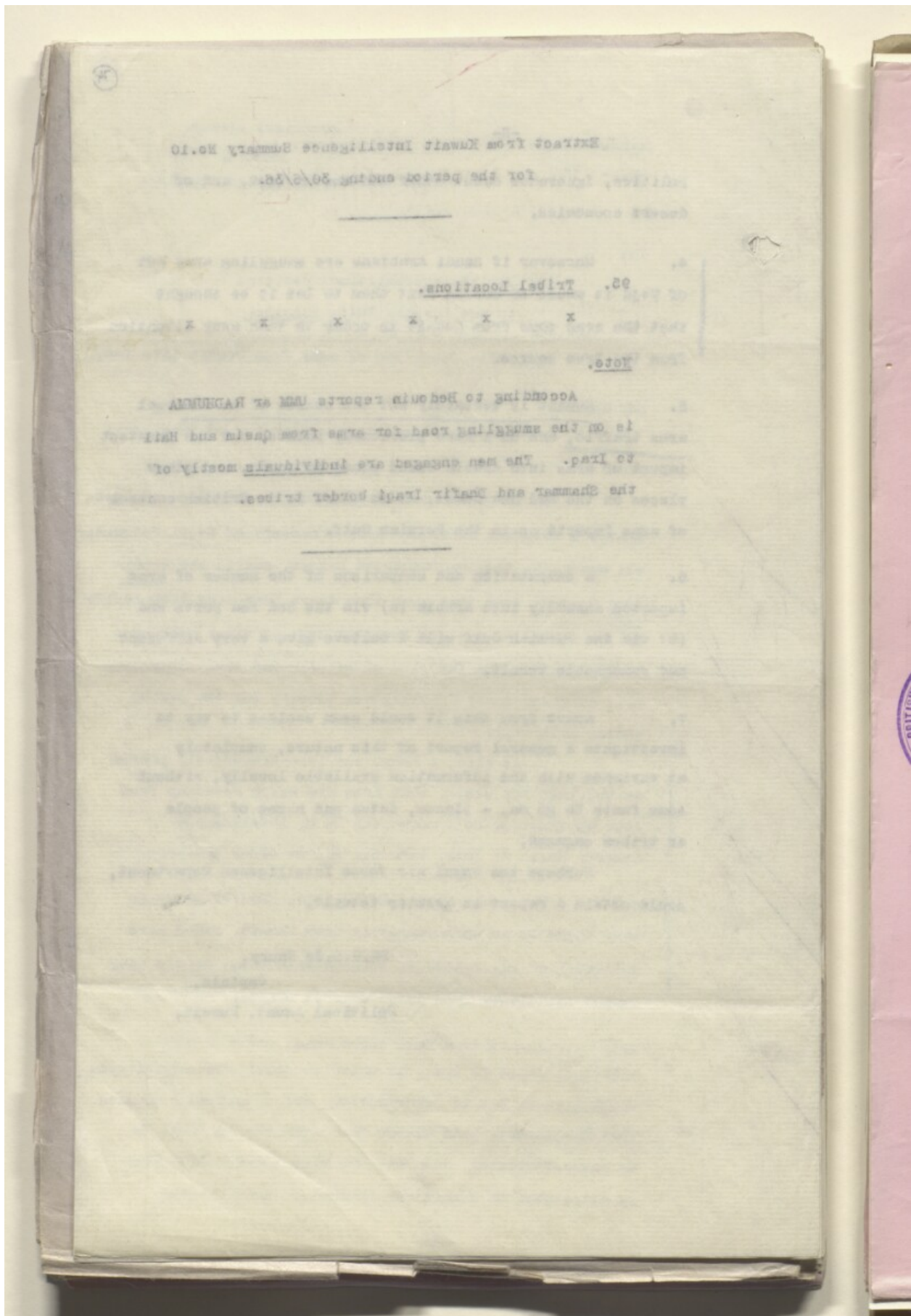
x       x       x       x       x       x

Note.

According to Bedouin reports UMM ar RADHUMMA  
is on the smuggling road for arms from Qasim and Hail  
to Iraq. The men engaged are individuals mostly of  
the Shammar and Dhafir Iraqi border tribes.

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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. 347-S

P. Z.  
4475  
1938

INDEXED

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

The Senior Naval Officer,  
Persian Gulf,  
H.M.S. Shoreham.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

4474

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated..... 7th June 1938.....

Reference to previous correspondence:

BRITISH RESIDENCY & CONSULATE-GENERAL  
BUSHIRE

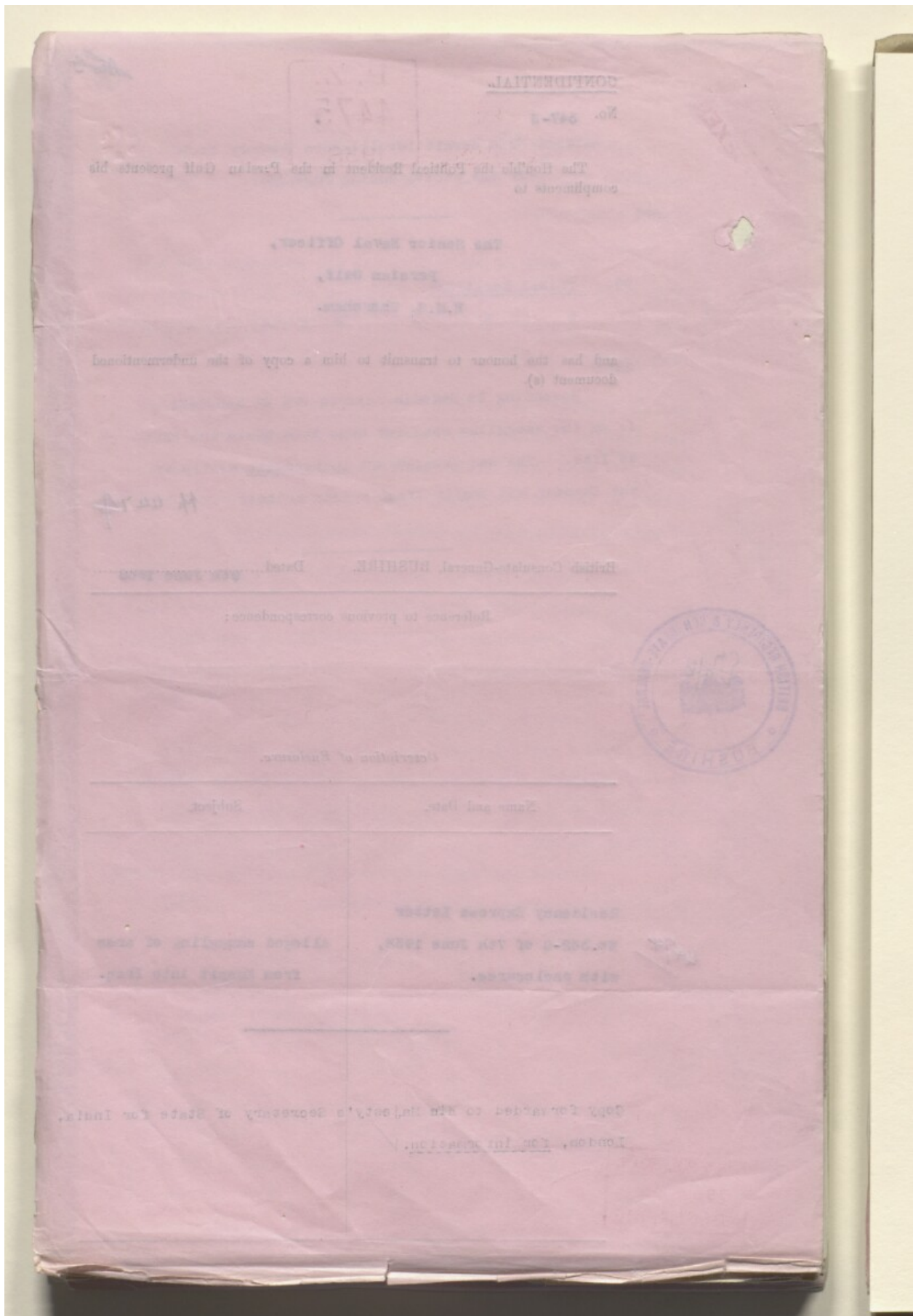
Description of Enclosure.

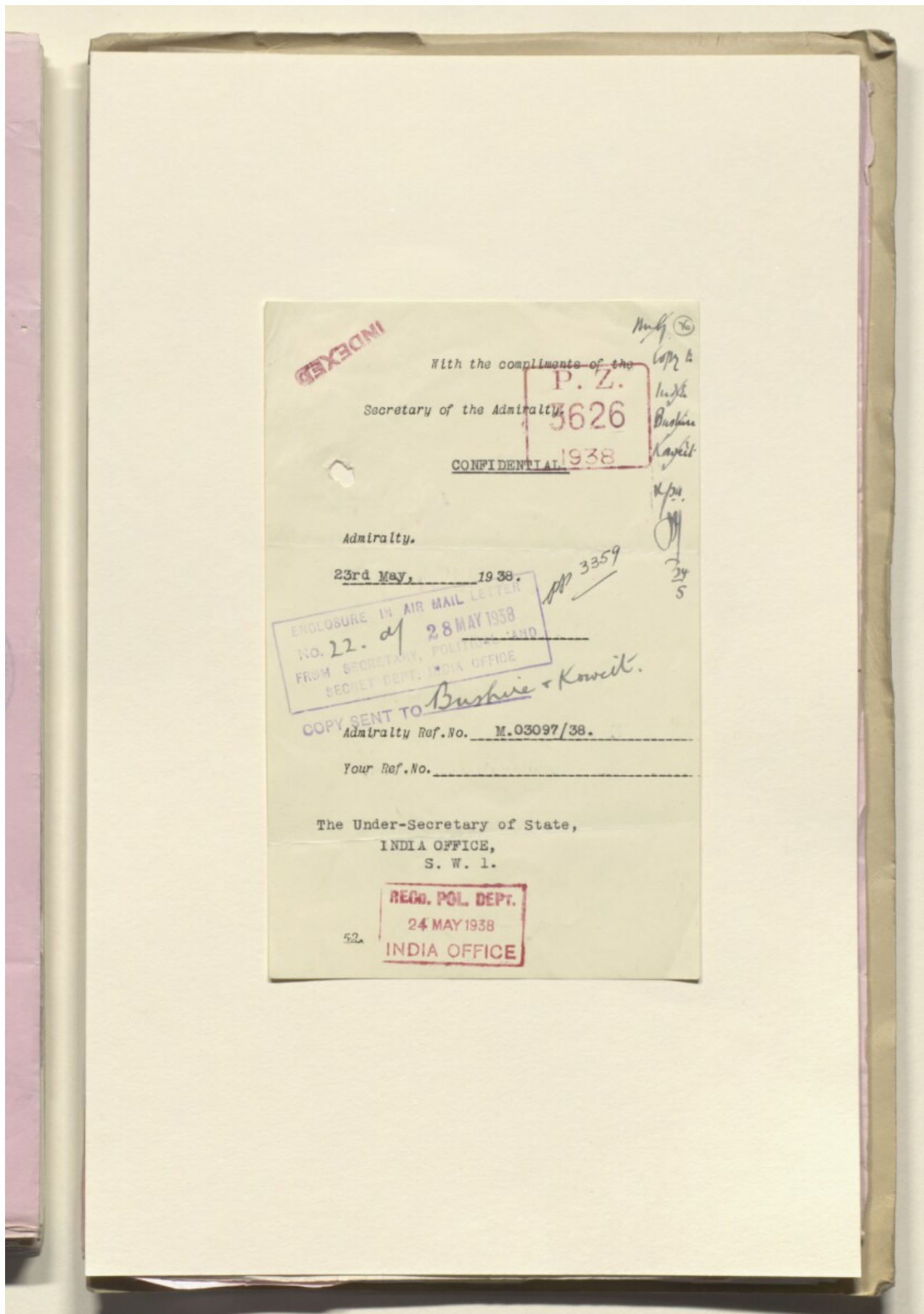
Name and Date.	Subject.
Residency Express Letter No. 342-S of 7th June 1938, with enclosures.	Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

Copy forwarded to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,  
London, for information. ✓

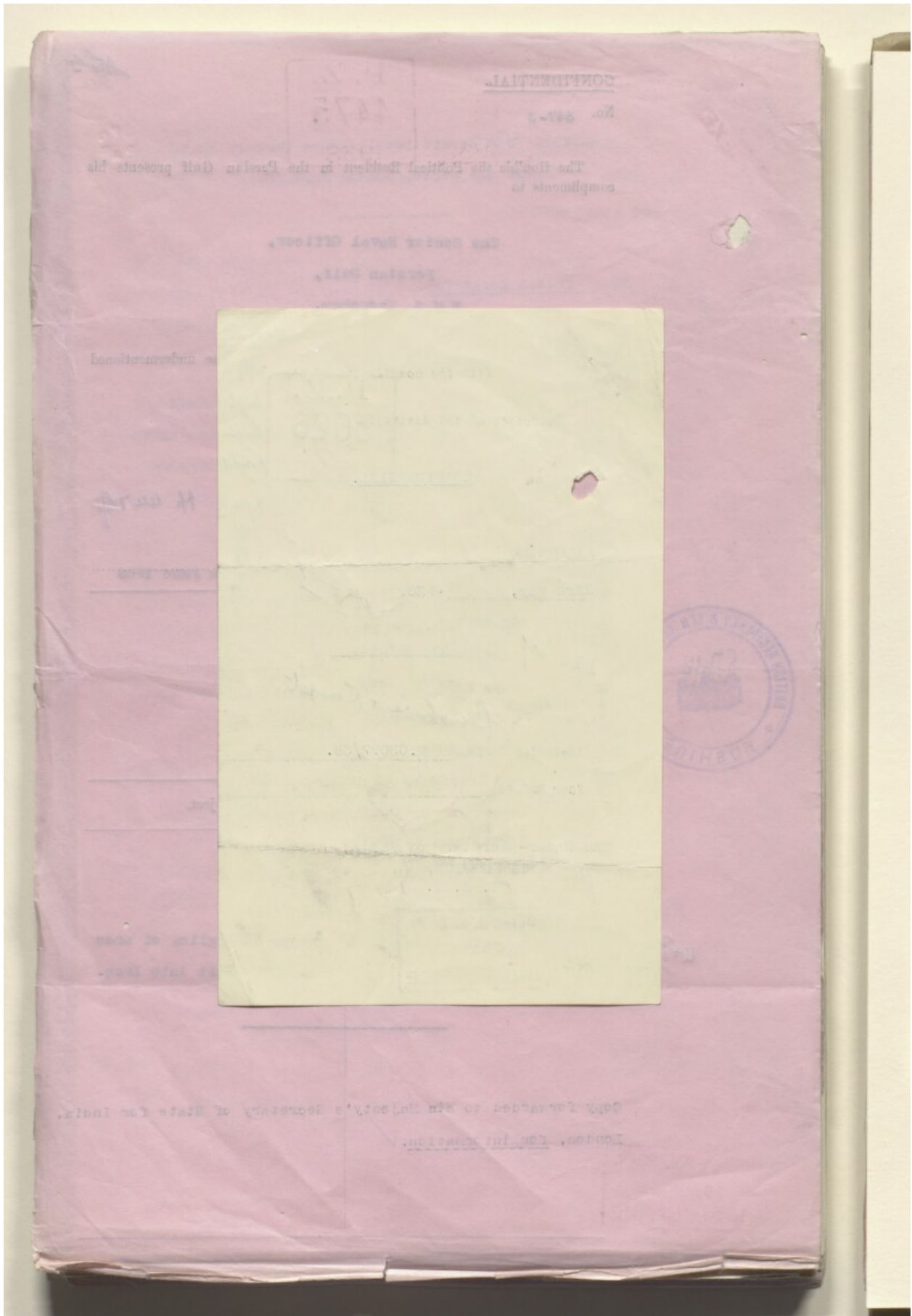
4474

RECD. POL. DEPT.  
28 JUN 1938  
INDIA OFFICE











M.03097/38.

23rd May, 8

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.E.2498/75/91, dated the 10th May, 1938, and to Mr. T.V. Brennan's semi-official letter No.E.2498/75/91, dated the 12th May, 1938, concerning the alleged traffic in arms from Koweit into Iraq, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, and the Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf, are being asked to report whether they have any independent information bearing on the matter.

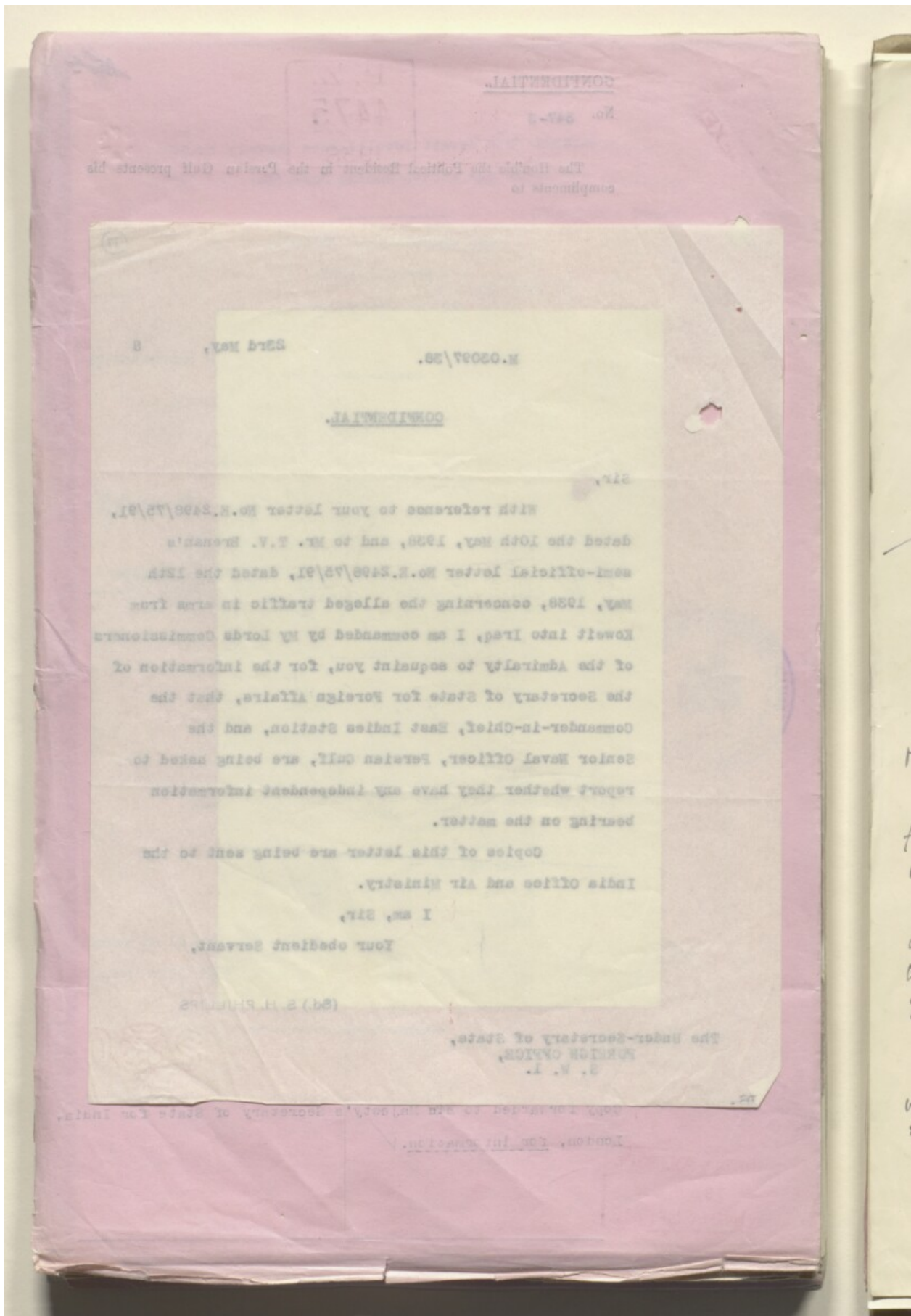
Copies of this letter are being sent to the India Office and Air Ministry.

I am, Sir,

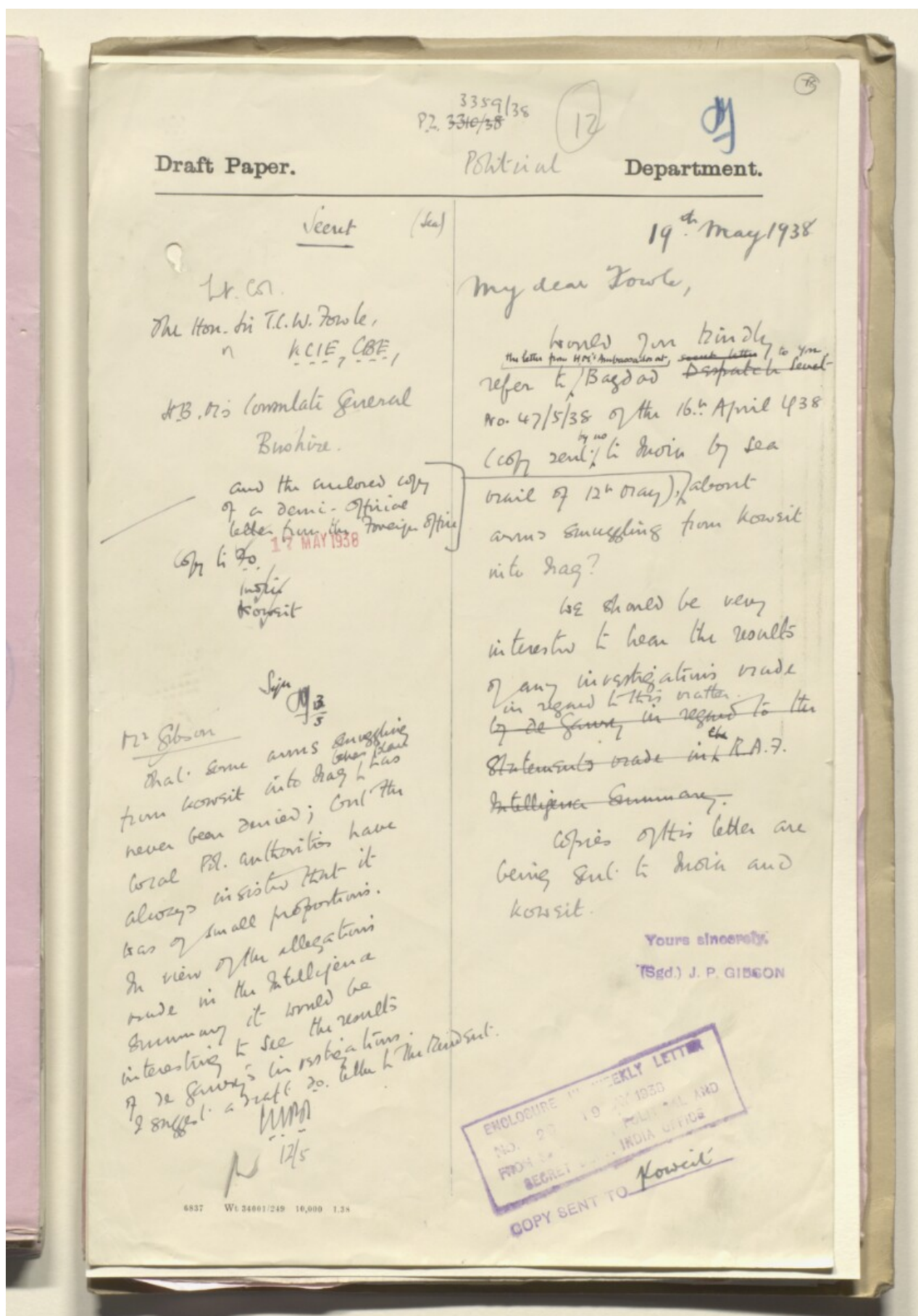
Your obedient Servant,

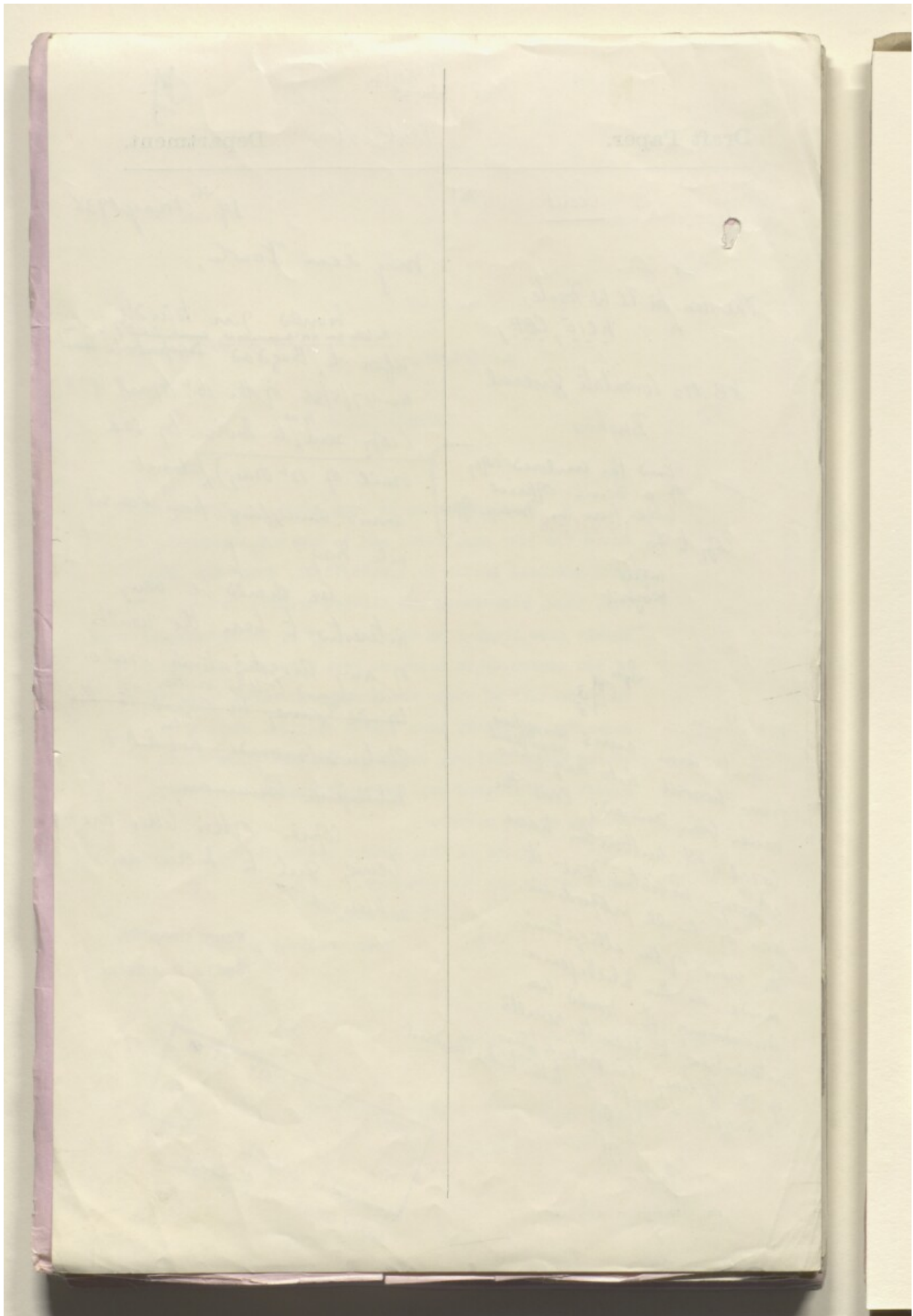
(Sd.) S. H. PHILLIPS

The Under-Secretary of State,  
FOREIGN OFFICE,  
S. W. 1.











INDEXED



(E 2498/75/91)

P. Z.  
3359  
1938

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

12th May, 1938.

My dear Gibson,

A copy of a recent despatch from the Ambassador in Bagdad to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf about the alleged traffic in arms from Koweit into Iraq has been sent to the India Office under cover of Foreign Office letter E 2498/75/91 of the 10th May. Copies were also sent under the same reference to the War Office, Air Ministry and Admiralty.

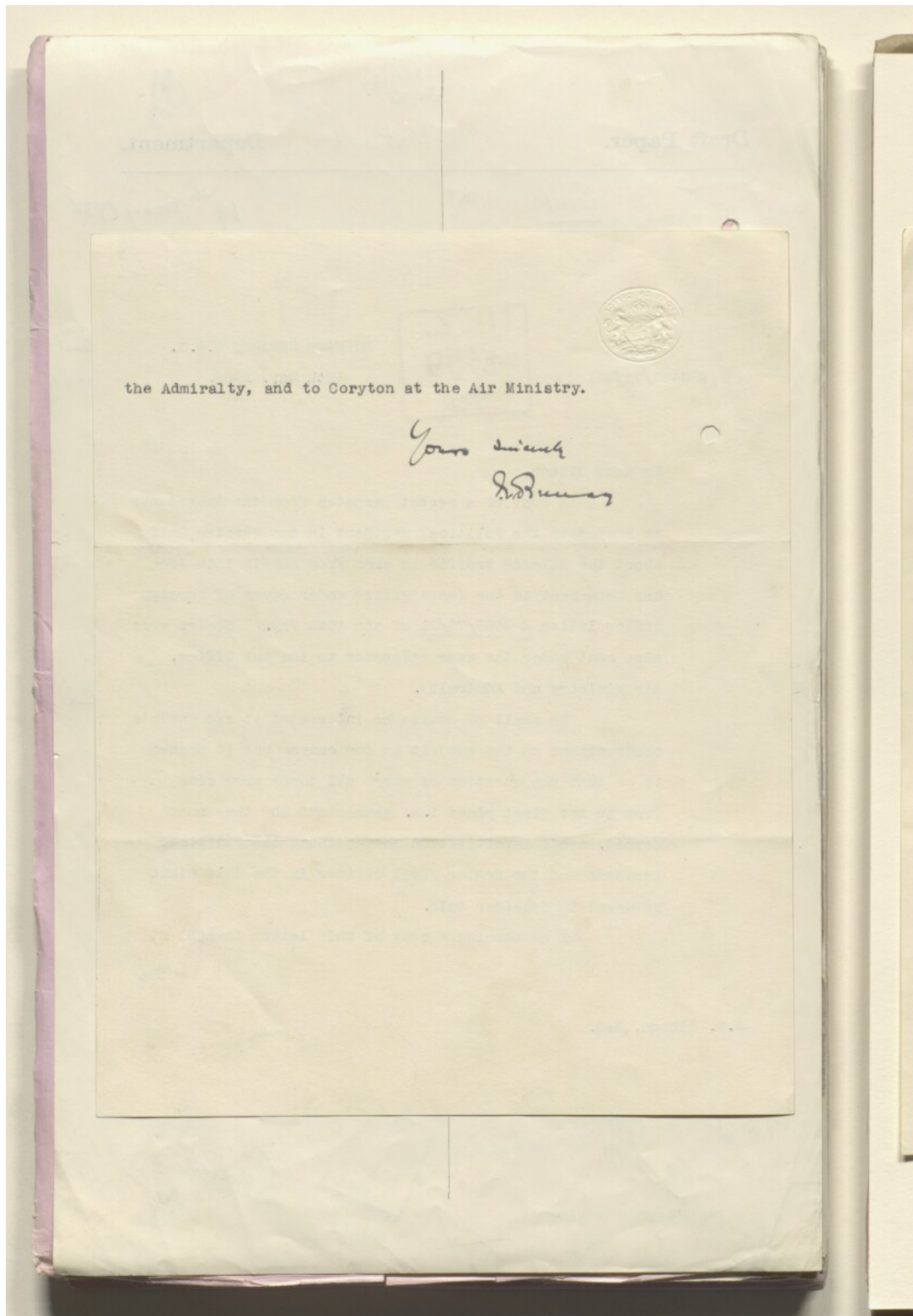
We shall of course be interested to see Fowle's observations on the subject in due course but it occurs to us that the question of where all these arms come from in the first place i.e. whence and how they reach Koweit, needs investigation and we think the Political Resident and the Senior Naval Officer in the Gulf might be asked to consider this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Seal at  
the

J.P. Gibson, Esq.

X







**INDEXED**

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. **R 2498 / 75/71. Z.**  
and address — not to any person by name, but to —  
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London S.W. 1.

**SECRET.**

*Bushire direct  
Koweit  
India Sea*

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

*M. G. N. S. 11/5-17/2*

Foreign Office,  
10 May, 1938.

*P.C. 2 with 3257-3  
H. 765/36-17/2*

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

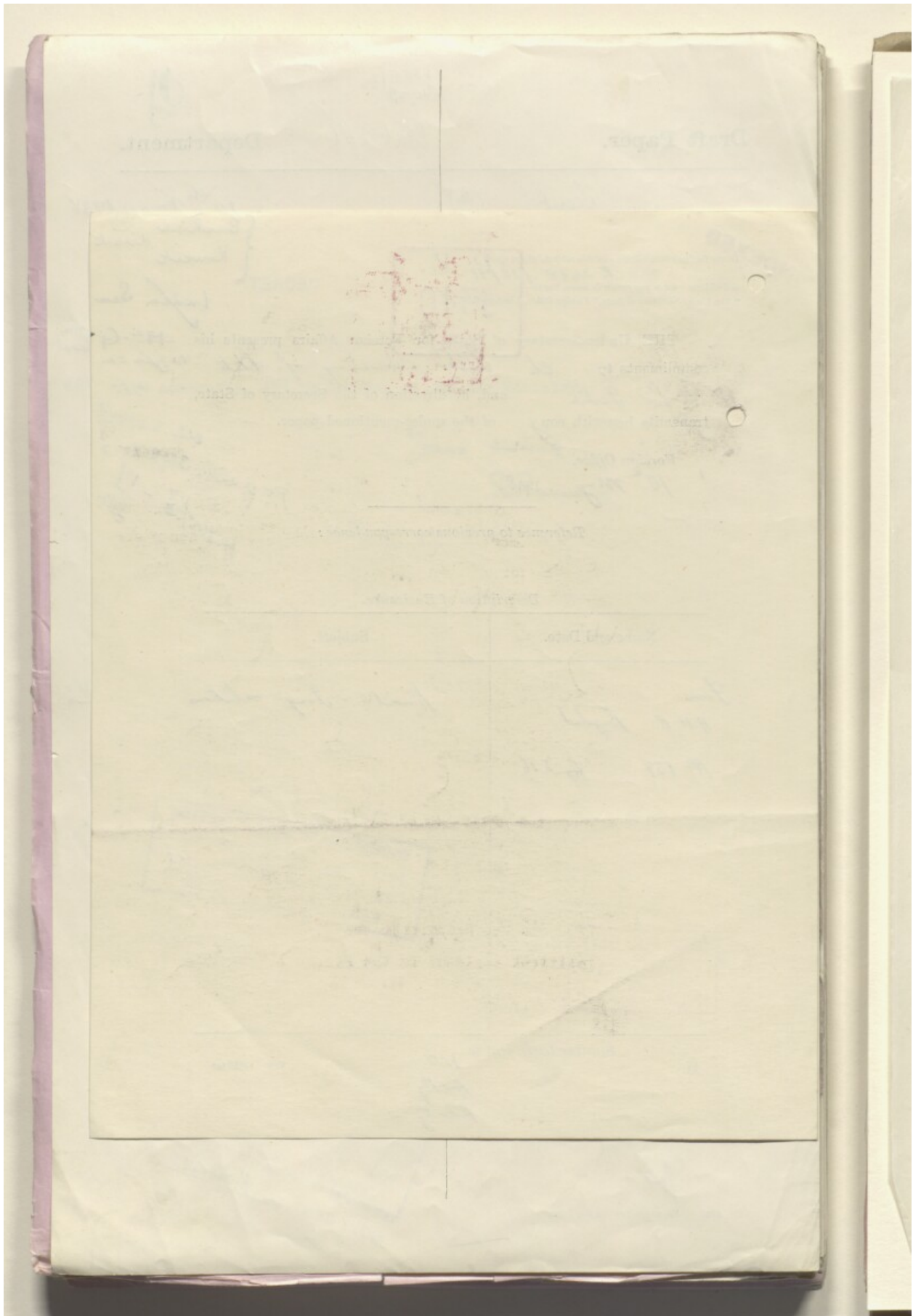
Name and Date.	Subject.
From H.M.R. Bagdad No 159 April 16	Koweit - Iraq relations

**REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
11 MAY 1938  
INDIA OFFICE**

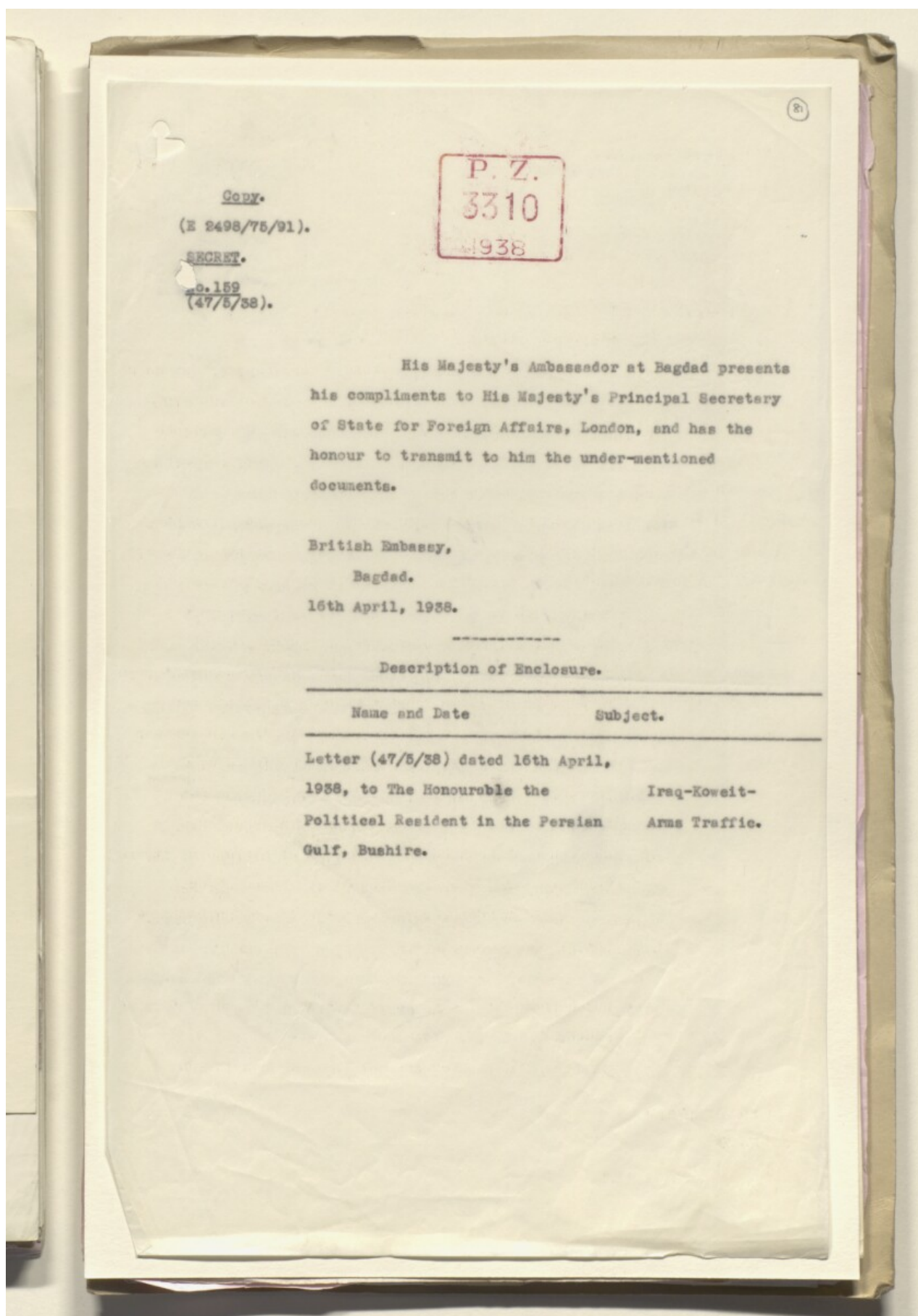
**ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER  
NO. 12 12 MAY 1938  
FROM SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE**

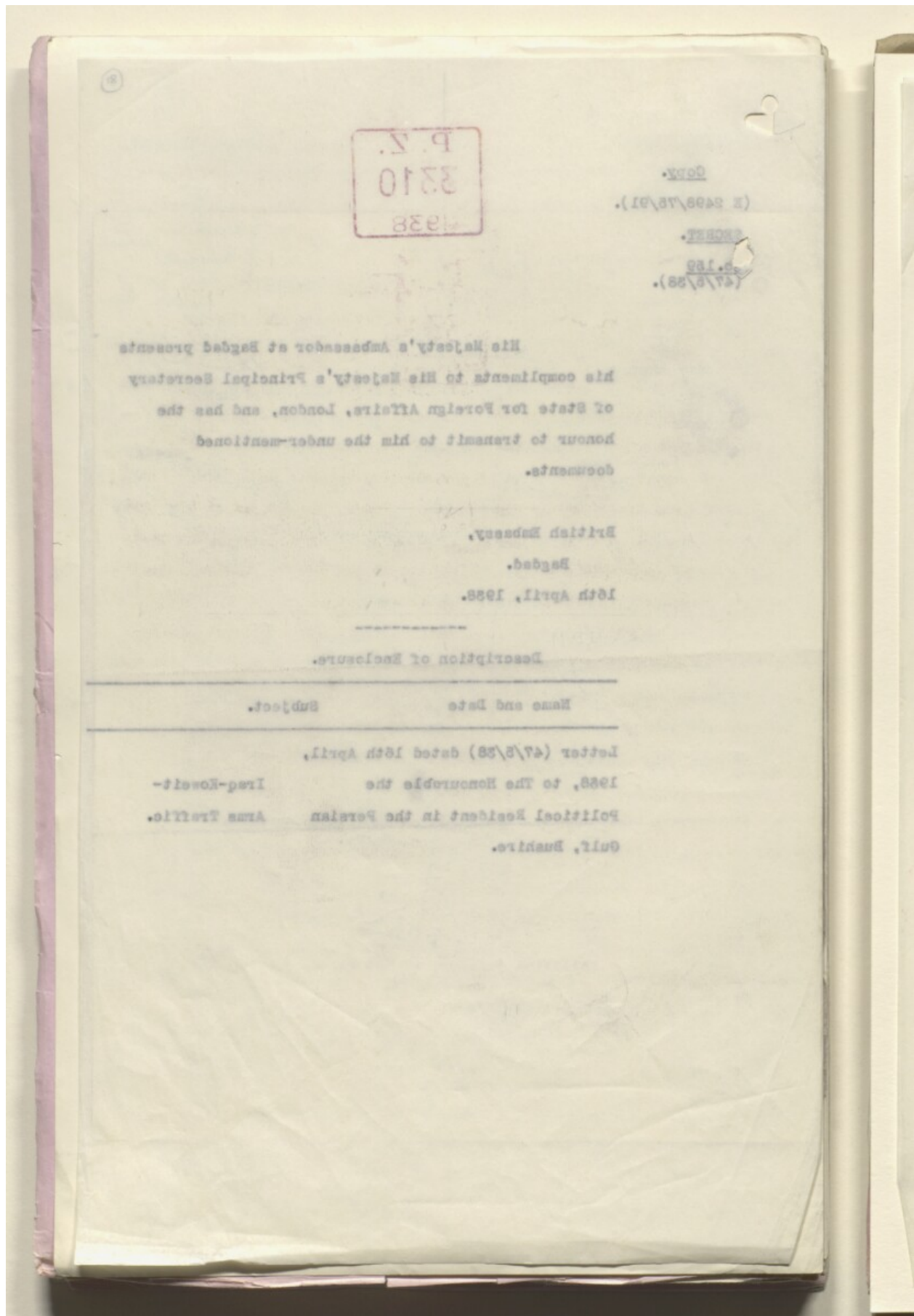
Similar letter sent to  
14 N.O.  
Air M.  
Admty.

6130 15588 (4)











(47/5/38).

British Embassy,

Bagdad.

16th April, 1938.

SECRET.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of an extract from the Intelligence Summary of the Royal Air Force for March, 1938.

2. You will see that, according to the information in the possession of Air Headquarters, the smuggling of arms from Koweit into Iraq has now increased beyond all normal proportions. It will be remembered that the Iraqi Government have from time to time complained that the tribes of the lower Euphrates areas obtained arms secretly from Koweit, but that it has hitherto been maintained by the Koweit authorities that there was no truth in these allegations.

3. The report referred to above comes from an entirely different and impartial source, and I suggest that it deserves investigation.

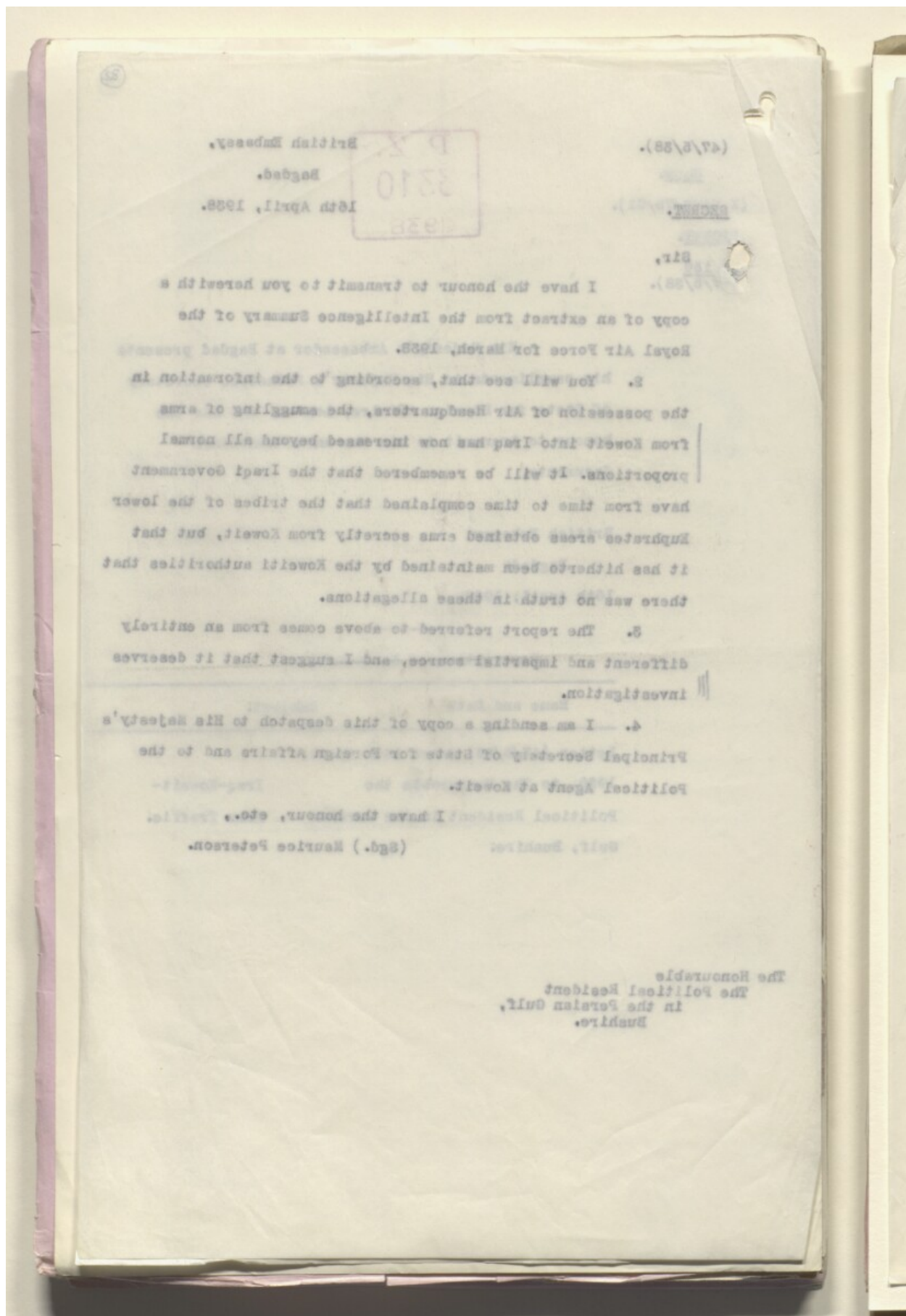
4. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and to the Political Agent at Koweit.

I have the honour, etc.,

(Sgd.) Maurice Peterson.

The Honourable  
The Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Bushire.







ENCLOSURE IN BAGDAD DESPATCH  
No. 159 of 16.4.1938.

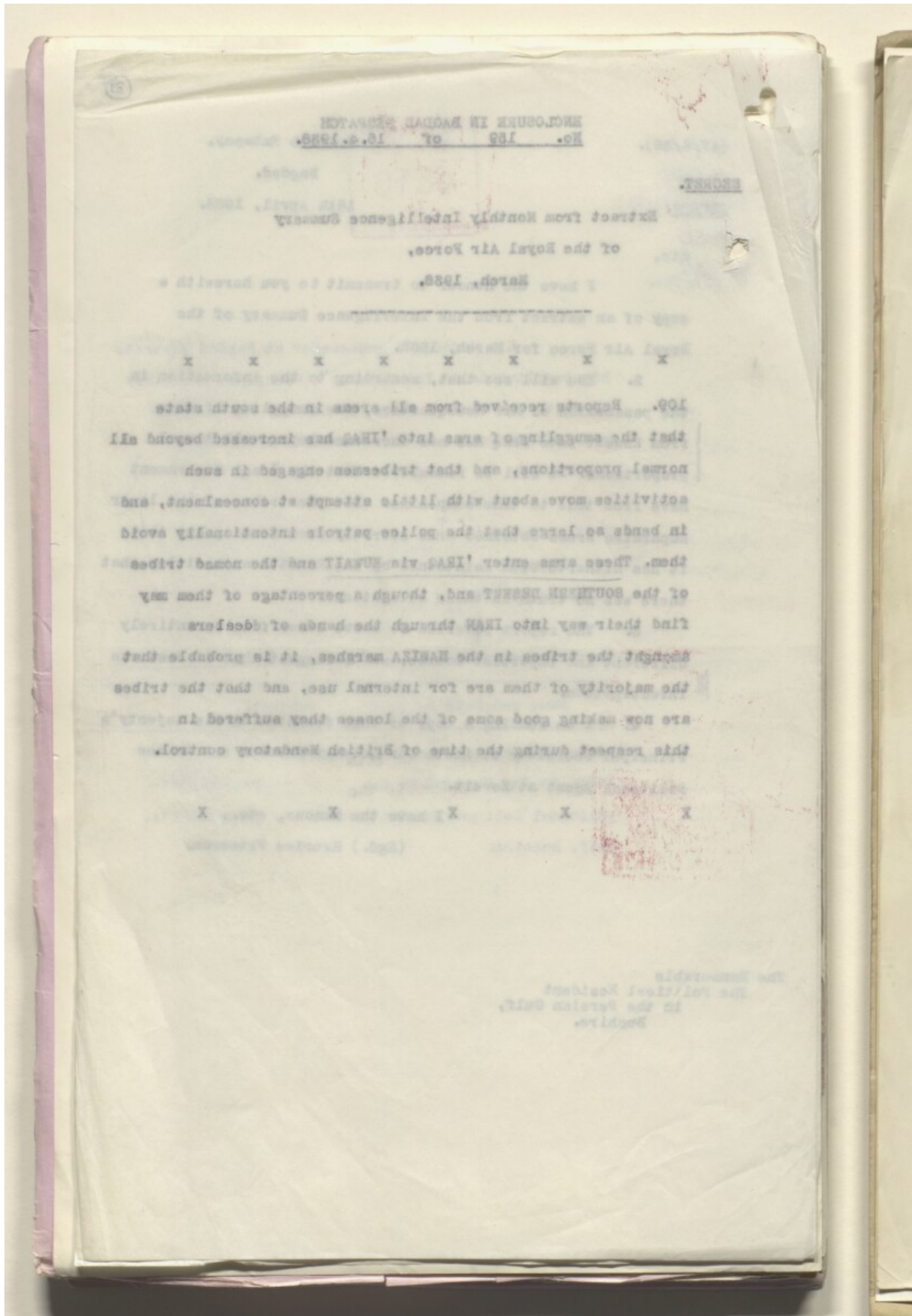
SECRET.

Extract from Monthly Intelligence Summary  
of the Royal Air Force,  
March, 1938.

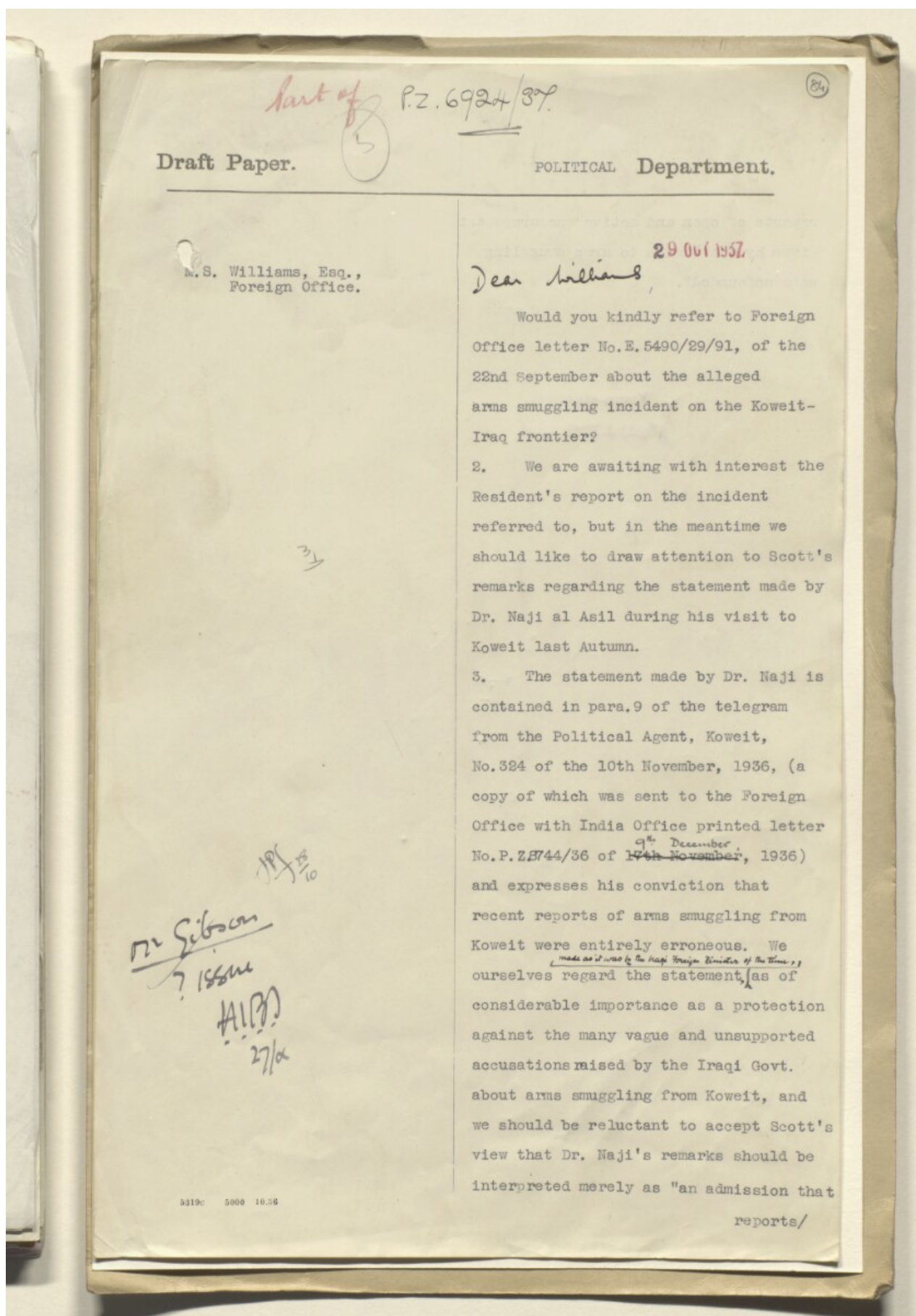
X X X X X X X X

109. Reports received from all areas in the south state that the smuggling of arms into 'IRAQ has increased beyond all normal proportions, and that tribesmen engaged in such activities move about with little attempt at concealment, and in bands so large that the police patrols intentionally avoid them. These arms enter 'IRAQ via KUWAIT and the nomad tribes of the SOUTHERN DESERT and, though a percentage of them may find their way into IRAN through the hands of dealers amongst the tribes in the HAWIZA marshes, it is probable that the majority of them are for internal use, and that the tribes are now making good some of the losses they suffered in this respect during the time of British Mandatory control.

X X X X X





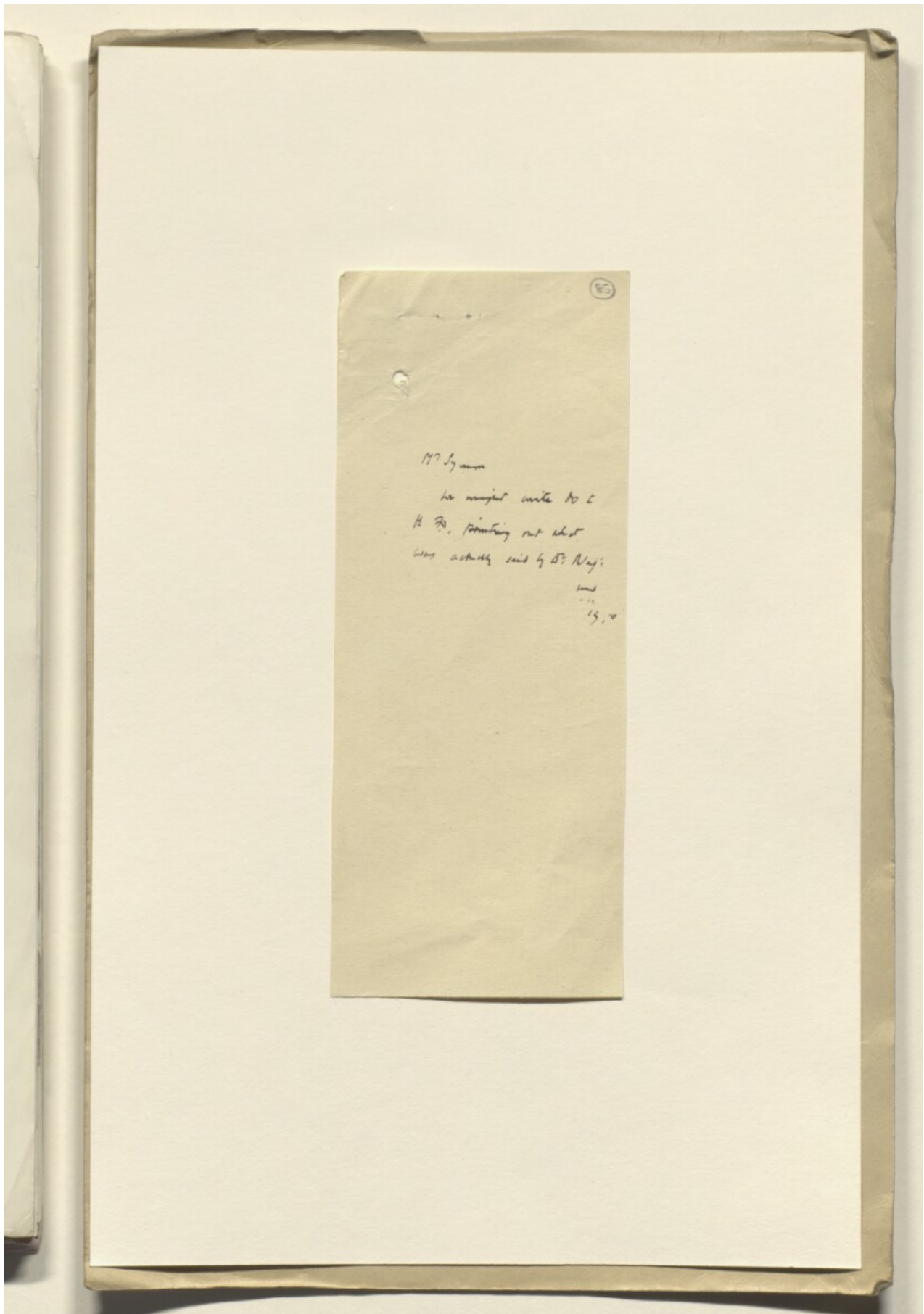
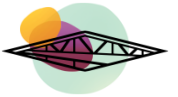




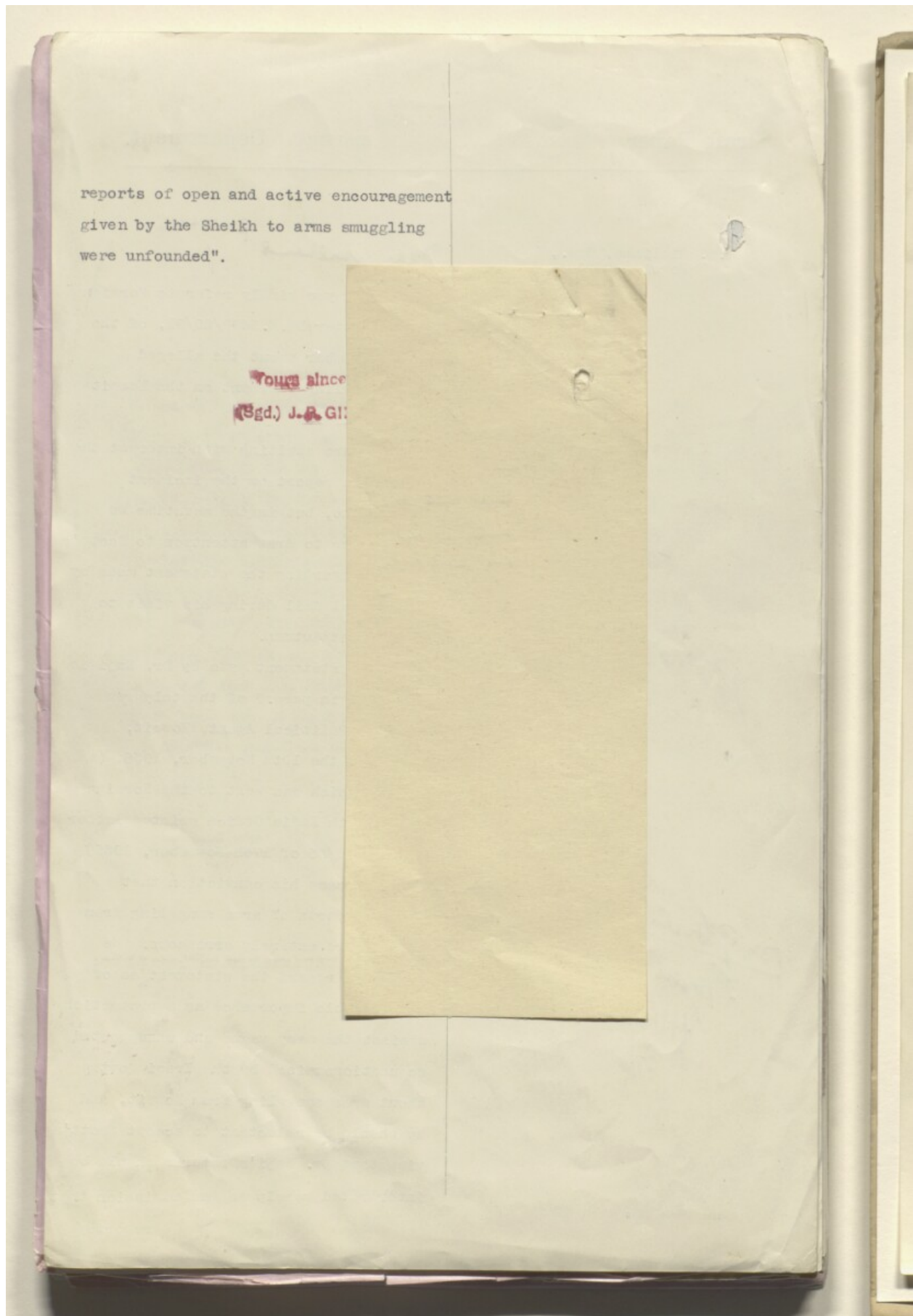
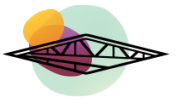
reports of open and active encouragement  
given by the Sheikh to arms smuggling  
were unfounded".

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. R. GIBSON









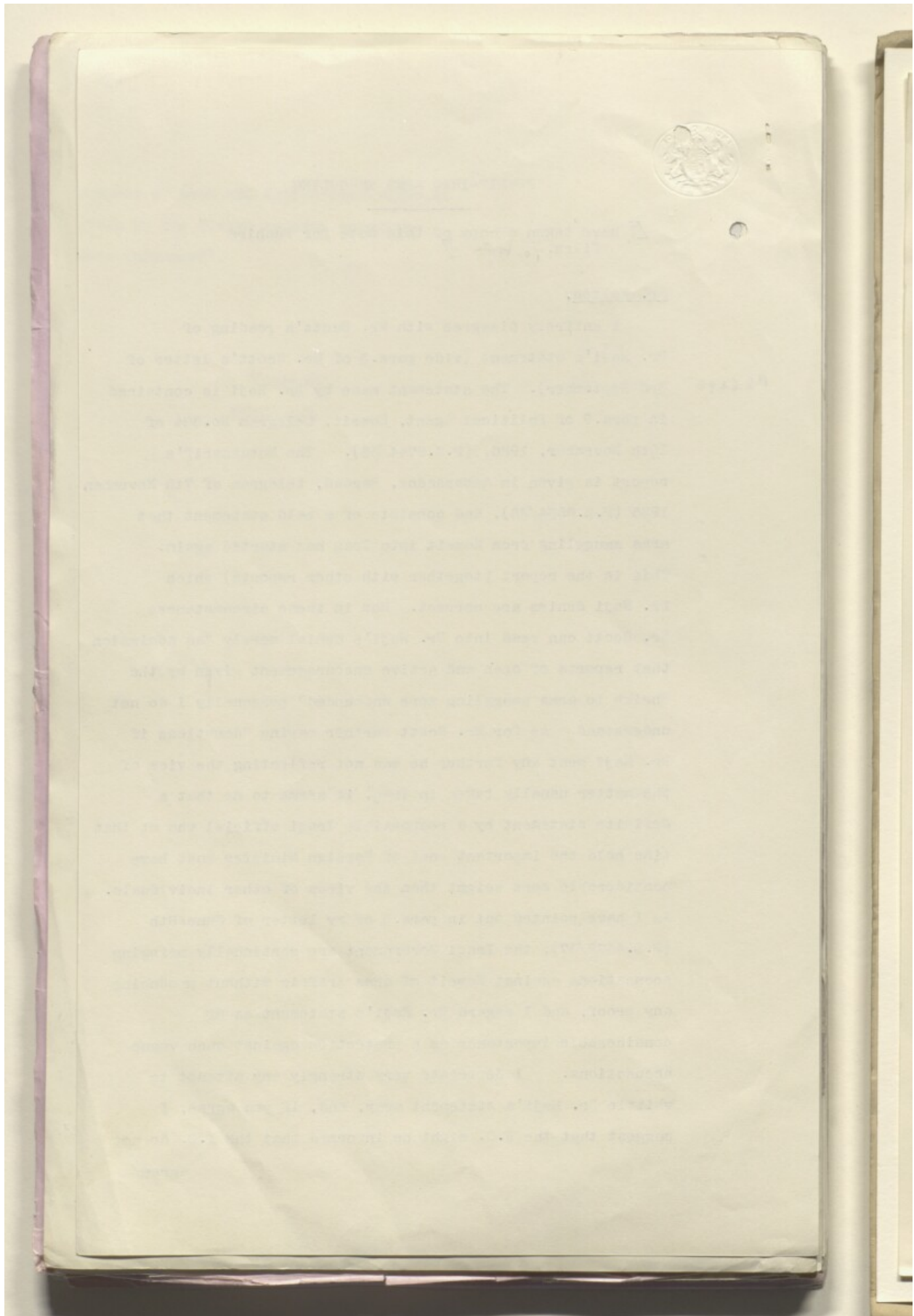
KOWEIT-IRAQ ARMS SMUGGLING

[I have taken a copy of this Note for Bushire  
files. *Te. P. 100*]

Mr. Walton,

P2.6296

I entirely disagree with Mr. Scott's reading of Dr. Naji's statement (vide para.3 of Mr. Scott's letter of 3rd September). The statement made by Dr. Naji is contained in para.9 of Political Agent, Koweit, telegram No.324 of 10th November, 1936, (P.Z.8744/36). The Mutassarif's report is given in Ambassador, Bagdad, telegram of 7th November, 1936 (P.Z.8534/36), and consists of a bald statement that arms smuggling from Koweit into Iraq has started again. This is the report (together with other reports) which Dr. Naji denies are correct. How in these circumstances Mr. Scott can read into Dr. Naji's denial merely "an admission that reports of open and active encouragement given by the Sheikh to arms smuggling were unfounded" personally I do not understand. As for Mr. Scott further saying "doubtless if Dr. Naji went any further he was not reflecting the view of the matter usually taken in Iraq", it seems to me that a definite statement by a responsible Iraqi official who at that time held the important post of Foreign Minister must have considerable more weight than the views of other individuals. As I have pointed out in para.3 of my letter of June 8th (P.Z.4378/37), the Iraqi Government are continually bringing accusations against Koweit of arms traffic without producing any proof, and I regard Dr. Naji's statement as of considerable importance as a protection against such vague accusations. I deprecate very strongly any attempt to whittle Dr. Naji's statement away, and, if you agree, I suggest that the F.O. might be informed that the I.O. do not agree/







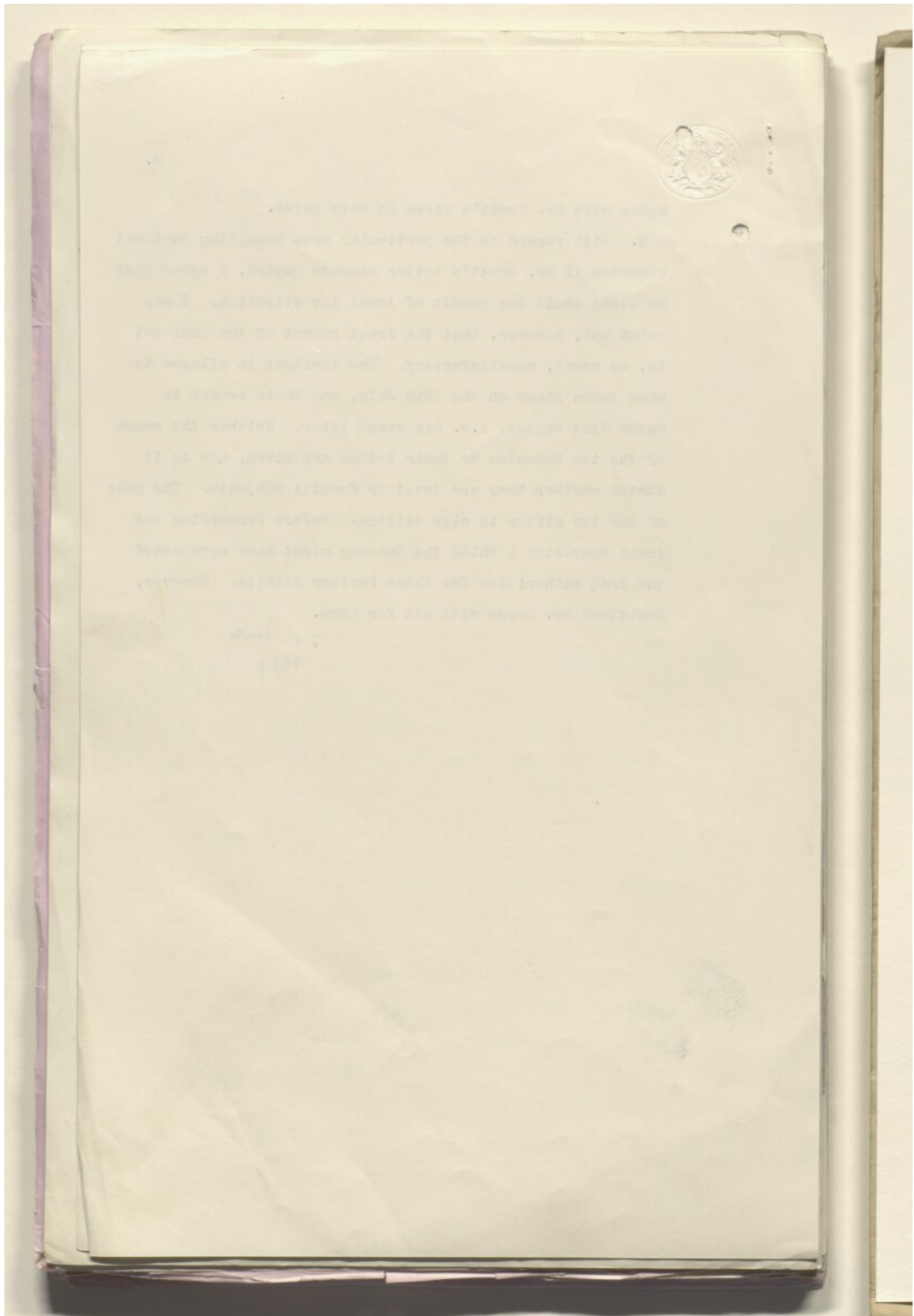
(87)

2.

agree with Mr. Scott's views on this point.

2. With regard to the particular arms smuggling incident reported in Mr. Scott's letter already quoted, I agree that we might await the result of local investigation. I may point out, however, that the Iraqi report of the incident is, as usual, unsatisfactory. The incident is alleged to have taken place on the 15th July, and their report is dated 31st August, i.e. six weeks later. Neither the names of the two Bedouins or their tribes are given, nor is it stated whether they are Iraqi or Koweiti subjects. The make of the two rifles is also omitted. Before forwarding the Iraqi complaint I think the Embassy might have approached the Iraq authorities for these further details. However, doubtless Mr. Caroe will ask for them.

T. C. Fawcett  
28/9





P2. 6296/37

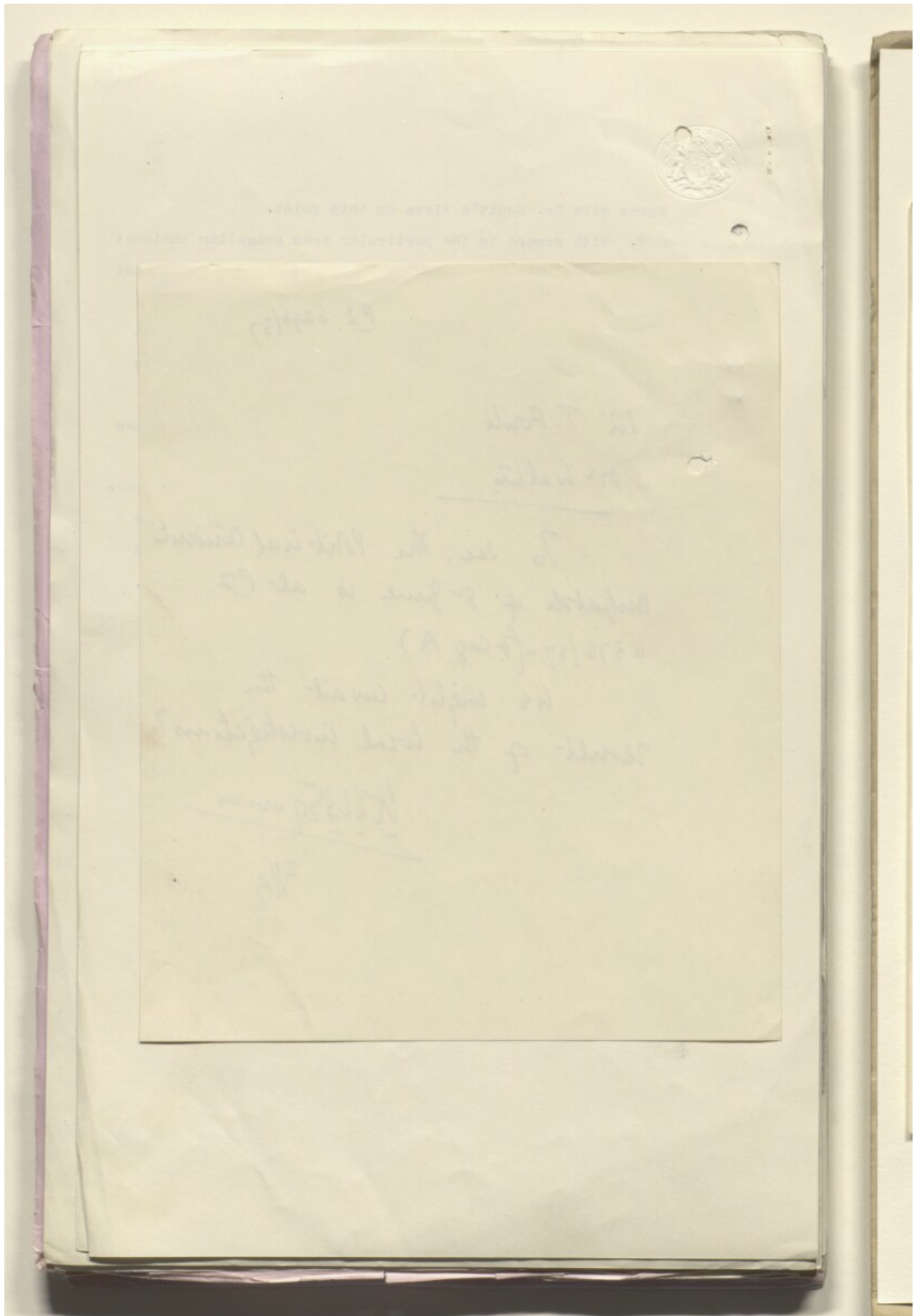
in T. Fowle  
to Waller

To see. The Political Resident's  
Despatch of 8<sup>th</sup> June is at P2.  
4378/37 - (7 Cag A)

We might await the  
result of the local investigation?

W. L. S. G. M. M.  
27/9







5.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. *E 5490/29/91.*  
and address *any person by name, but to—*  
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.2.

*India.* (89)  
*M.C.*

P. Z.  
6296  
1937

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his  
compliments to *the Under Secretary of State for*  
*India* and, by direction of the Secretary of State,  
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,  
*Sept 22, 1937.* *M 4378* *17/22*

Reference to previous correspondence:  
*Id. letter P.Z. 4378/37. Jy 7.*

Description of Enclosure.

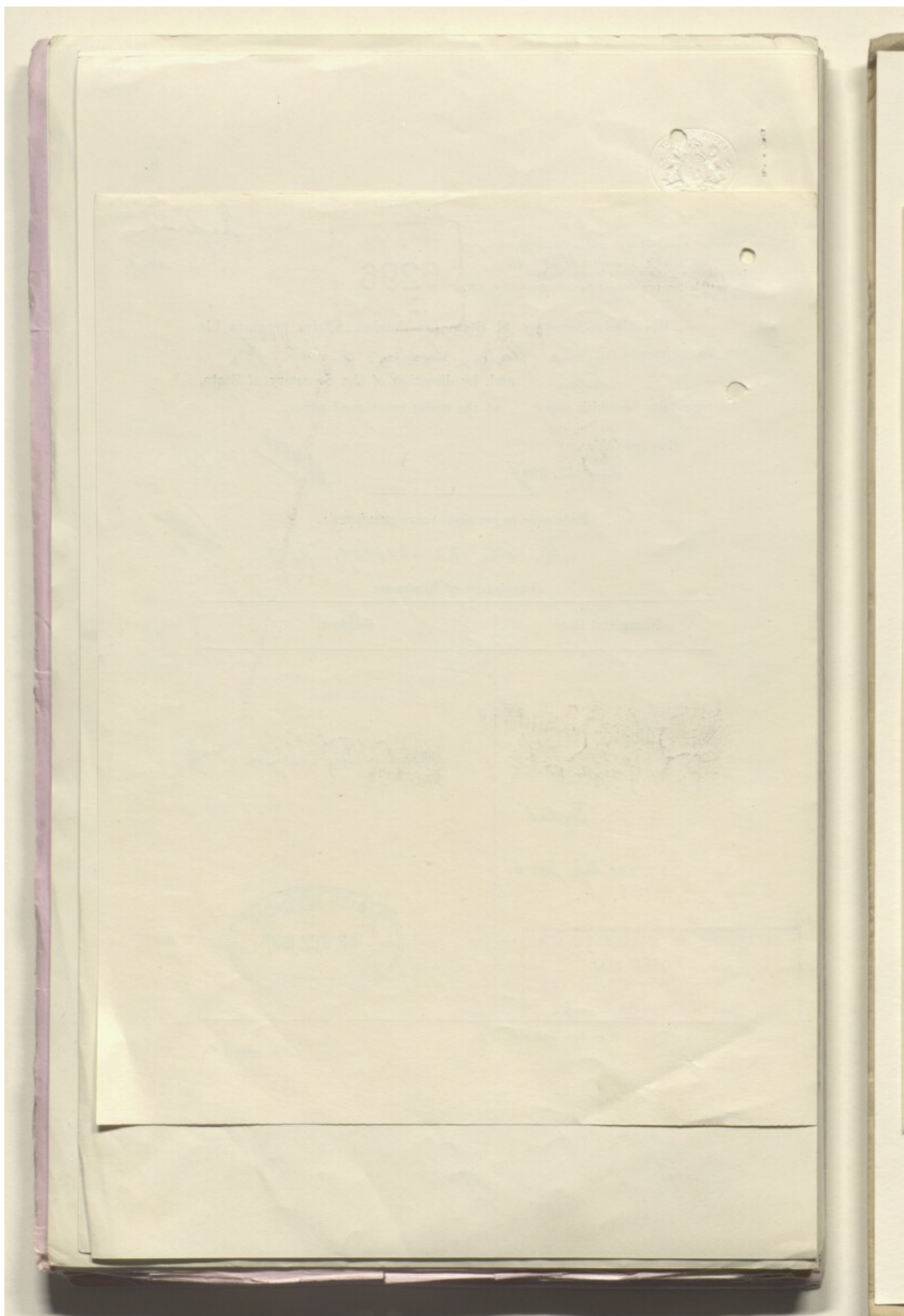
Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>From</i> <i>Am R.</i> <i>Bagdad.</i> <i>no. 366. Sept 3.</i>	<i>Koweit - Iraq arms traffic.</i>

ENCLOSURE IN WEEKLY LETTER  
NO. 29 30 SEP 1937  
UNDER SECRETARY, POLITICAL AND  
SECRET DEPT. INDIA OFFICE

MAILS BRANCH  
23 SEP 1937  
INDIA OFFICE

Similar letter sent to

14 6130 15588 (4)







No. 366.  
(135/5/37)

P. Z  
6296  
1937

HIS Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Bagdad  
presents his compliments to H.M.'s Principal Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs,  
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British...Embassy,.....

.....Bagdad.....

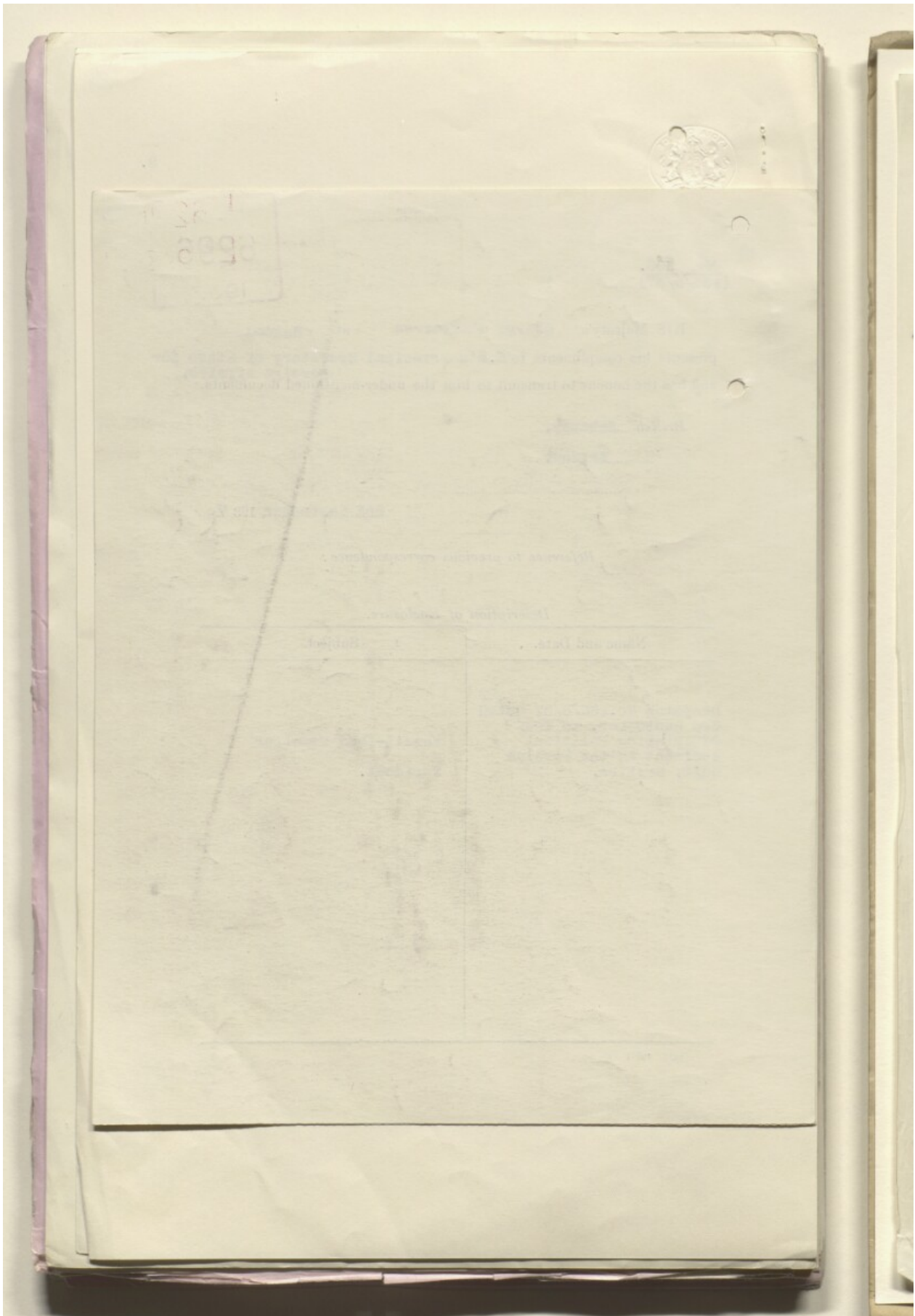
3rd September, 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch No.135/5/37 dated 3rd September, to the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.	Koweit-Iraq frontier incident.

3479 10871 (2)





ENCLOSURE IN BAGDAD DESPATCH  
NO. 366 OF 3.9.37.

(135/5/37)

British Embassy,  
Bagdad. 1937

3rd September, 1937.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a translation of a letter from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs drawing attention to an arms-smuggling incident which is alleged to have occurred in July on the Koweit-Iraq frontier.

2. I should be grateful if you would arrange for the alleged facts to be investigated and the result communicated to me in due course.

3. I note that, in his confidential letter to His Majesty's Ambassador of June 8th (No. 442-S), the Political Resident quoted Dr. Hagi al Asil as having stated, on his visit to Koweit last autumn, that no arms traffic between Koweit and Iraq any longer existed. Personally, all I should read into Dr. Hagi's remarks (as cited in Captain de Gaury's report No. C.328 of November 13th, 1936) would be an admission that reports of open and active encouragement given by the Shaikh to arms-smuggling were unfounded. At any rate, if Dr. Hagi went any further, he was not reflecting the view of the matter usually taken in Iraq.

4. I am sending a copy of this despatch and its enclosure to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I have the honour to be,

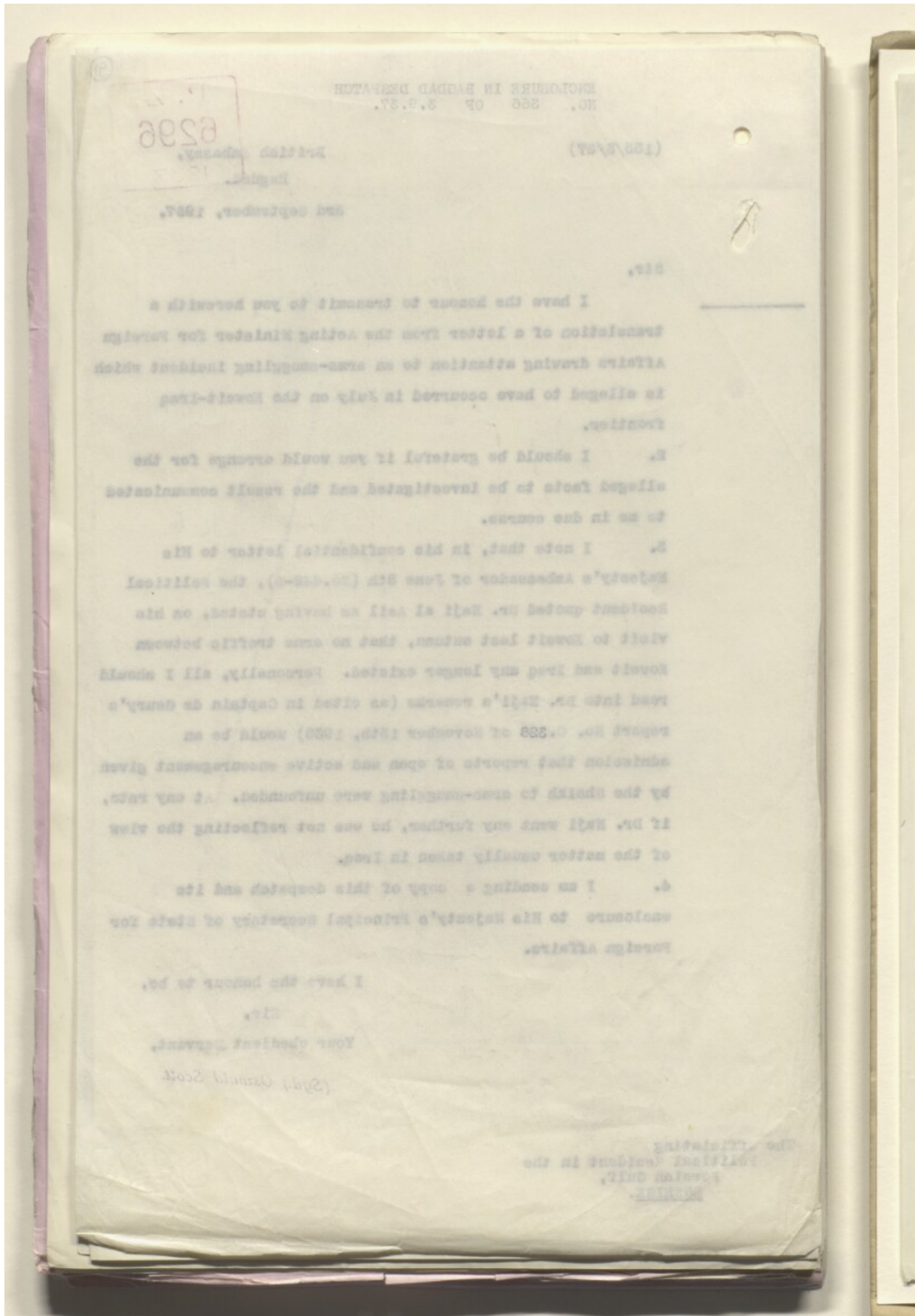
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) Oswald Scott.

The Officiating  
Political Resident in the  
Persian Gulf,  
BUSHIRE.







No. C.2/24.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Bagdad, 31st August, 1937.

My dear Charge d'Affaires,

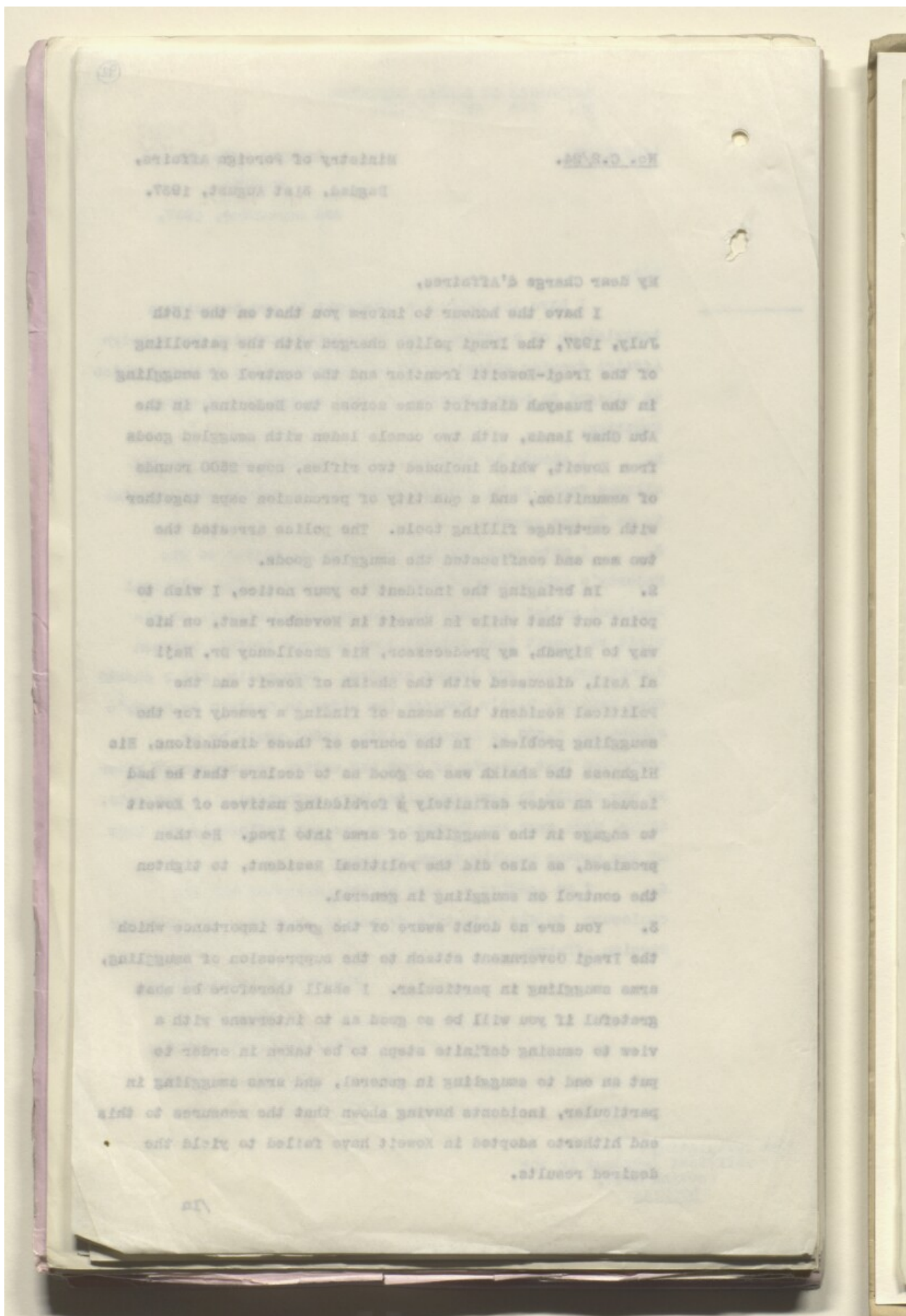
I have the honour to inform you that on the 15th July, 1937, the Iraqi police charged with the patrolling of the Iraqi-Koweit frontier and the control of smuggling in the Busayah district came across two Bedouins, in the Abu Ghar lands, with two camels laden with smuggled goods from Koweit, which included two rifles, some 2500 rounds of ammunition, and a quantity of percussion caps together with cartridge filling tools. The police arrested the two men and confiscated the smuggled goods.

2. In bringing the incident to your notice, I wish to point out that while in Koweit in November last, on his way to Riyadh, my predecessor, His Excellency Dr. Najî al Asil, discussed with the Shaikh of Koweit and the Political Resident the means of finding a remedy for the smuggling problem. In the course of these discussions, His Highness the Shaikh was so good as to declare that he had issued an order definitely forbidding natives of Koweit to engage in the smuggling of arms into Iraq. He then promised, as also did the Political Resident, to tighten the control on smuggling in general.

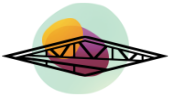
3. You are no doubt aware of the great importance which the Iraqi Government attach to the suppression of smuggling, arms smuggling in particular. I shall therefore be most grateful if you will be so good as to intervene with a view to causing definite steps to be taken in order to put an end to smuggling in general, and arms smuggling in particular, incidents having shown that the measures to this end hitherto adopted in Koweit have failed to yield the desired results.

/In









93

-2-

In awaiting the result of the kind efforts to  
be exerted by you, I avail myself of this opportunity  
to express my highest consideration and esteem.

Yours sincerely,

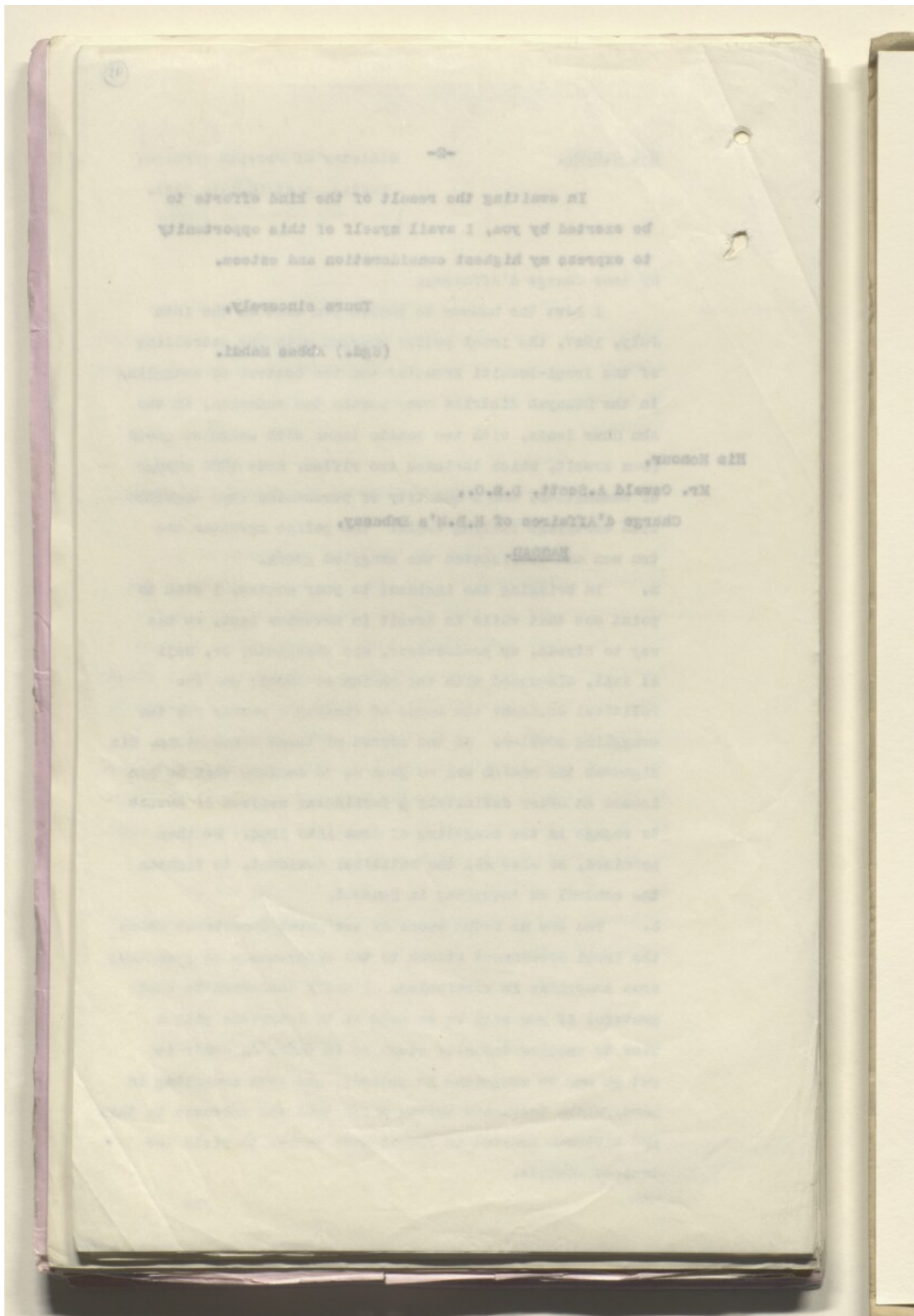
(Sgd.) Abbas Mahdi.

His Honour,

Mr. Oswald A. Scott, D.S.O.,

Charge d'Affaires of H.B.M.'s Embassy,

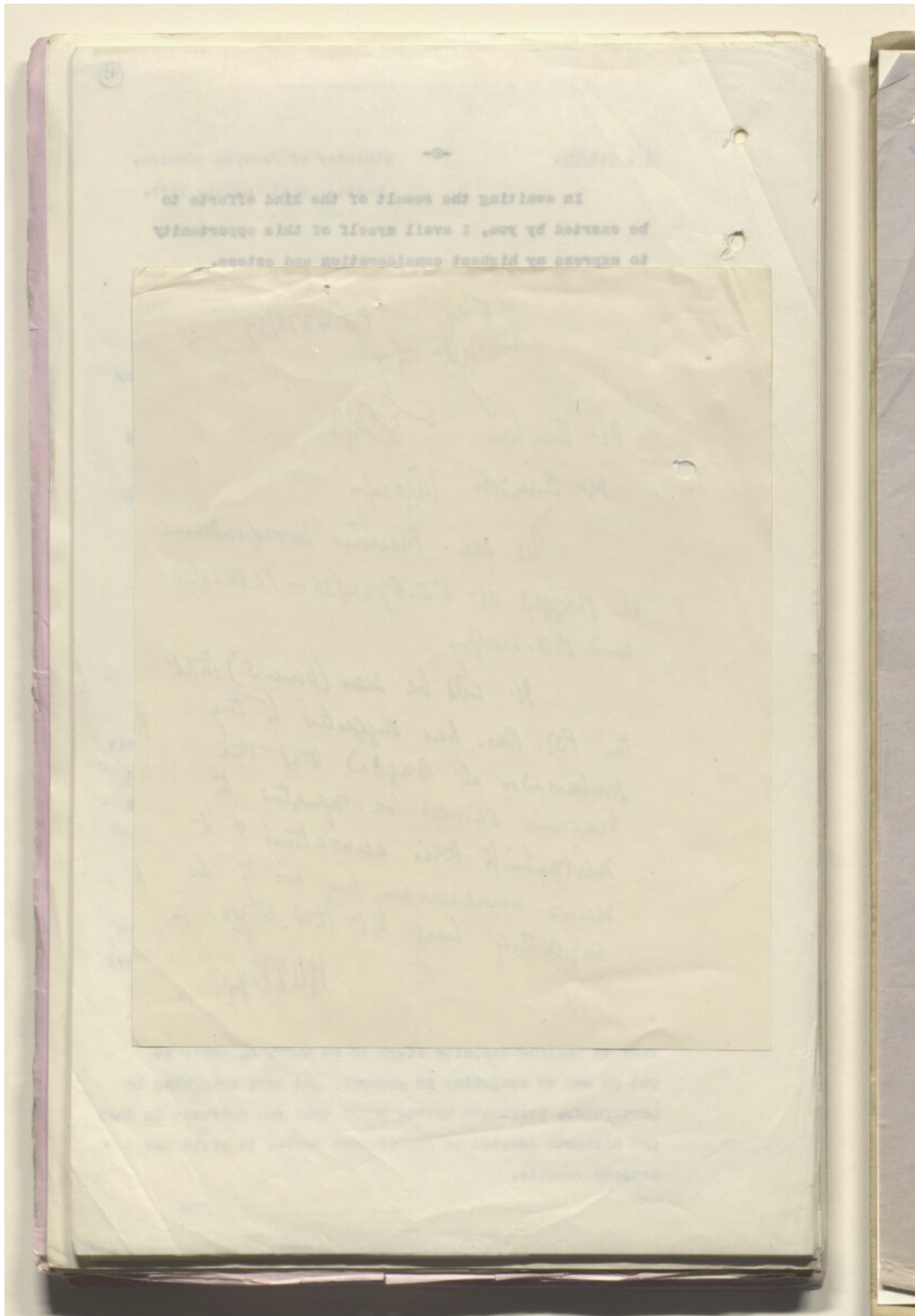
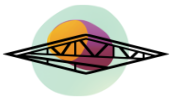
BAGDAD.





Put by P.2.4378/37  
Wile 10/7  
Mr Barclay Sum 9/7  
Mr Clanson Wile 10/7  
To see. Previous correspondence  
is traced at P.2.8744/36 - P.2.8823/36 -  
and P.2.2500/37.  
It will be seen (para 5) that  
the P.S. Res. has suggested to the  
Ambassador at Baghdad that the  
Iraqis should be requested to  
substantiate their accusations & it  
seems unnecessary for us to do  
anything here at this stage.  
H.U. 9/7







INDEXED

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.  
4378 Department.  
1937  
EXPRESS LETTER (AIR MAIL).

[N.B.—This is an ORIGINAL message sent by AIR MAIL which provides a means of communication more expeditious than the ordinary mail and is cheaper than the telegraph. It is intended to be treated, on receipt, with the same expedition as if it had been telegraphed. To save time and to obviate formalities it is drafted in the form of a telegram. It is authenticated by the signature of a responsible officer of the Department.]

No. 442-8 of 1937. Dated <sup>Bushire,</sup> ~~Simla,~~ the 8th June, 1937.

To  
xxx

From - Political Resident,  
Bushire.

To - His Majesty's Ambassador, Bagdad.  
Secretary of State for India, London.

Repeated  
Reference your my

Government of India, External Affairs } with copy  
Department, Simla. } of Bagdad  
Political Agent, Kuwait. } Savingram  
referred to below.

Subject: Arms Traffic from Kuwait into Iraq.

Reference the last sentence of paragraph 3 of your Savingram No.59 dated the 31st May 1937 to the Foreign Office.

2. It will be convenient to deal with this alleged gun-running separately from the general question of smuggling.

3. As you are aware, for some years past the Iraq Government have brought these accusations against Kuwait of arms traffic hitherto without producing any proof.

4. Only eight months ago Haji Asil, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, who is presumably in the best position to judge, after a visit to Kuwait made a categorical statement that no such arms traffic existed (vide correspondence ending with

(Signature) my /

(Designation)

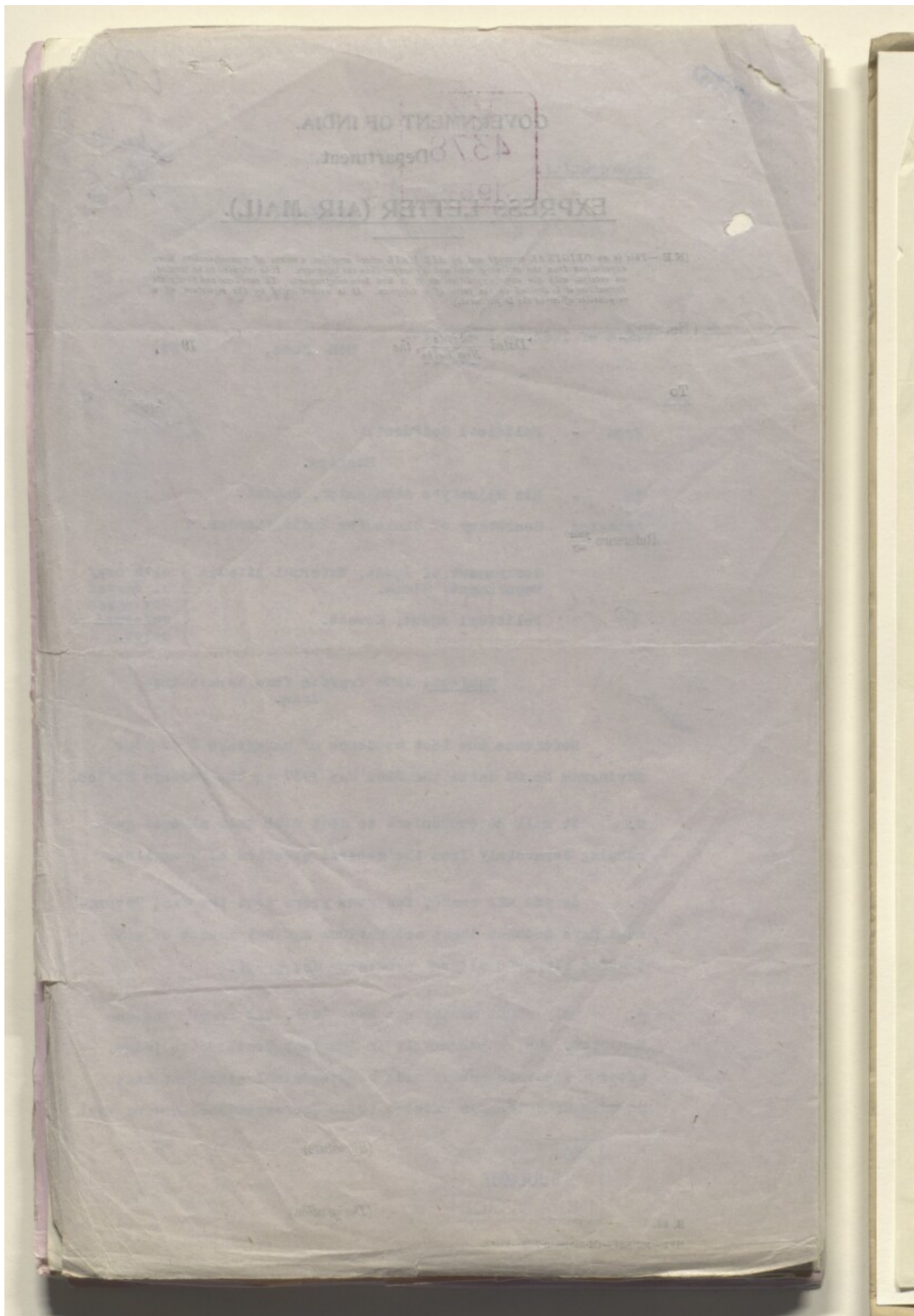
RECD. P. M. 1937  
- 5 JUL 1937  
INDIA OFFICE

S. 44.  
MFP-367 SAT-(M-008)-15-7-35-10,000.

4184 - 600 1/4 ③ -  
M. S. 1/4

95  
70  
Mue  
M-S









-2-

my letter No.C/50 dated the 7th April 1937, copy to India  
Office, Government of India and Kuwait under Printed letter No.  
C/51 of same date).

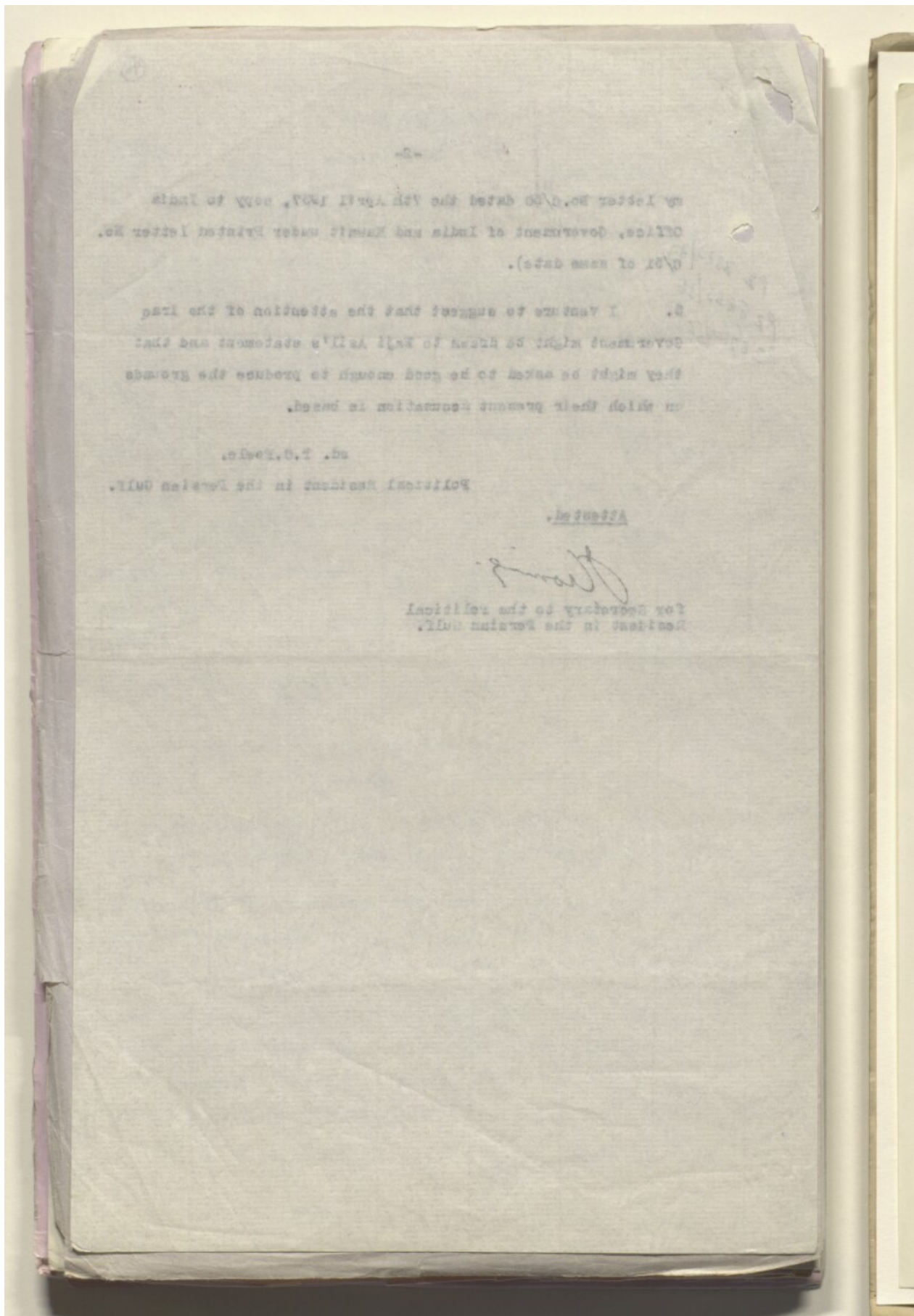
P2 2370/37  
P2 8833/36  
P2 8944/36  
5. I venture to suggest that the attention of the Iraq  
Government might be drawn to Naji Asil's statement and that  
they might be asked to be good enough to produce the grounds  
on which their present accusation is based.

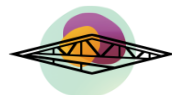
sd. T.C.Fowle.

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Attested.

*Kronig*  
for Secretary to the Political  
Resident in the Persian Gulf.





Qm 7  
P.Z.4184/37.

No. E.3078/53/93.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs  
presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State  
for India and, by direction of the Secretary of State,  
transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

FOREIGN OFFICE,  
26th June, 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence:

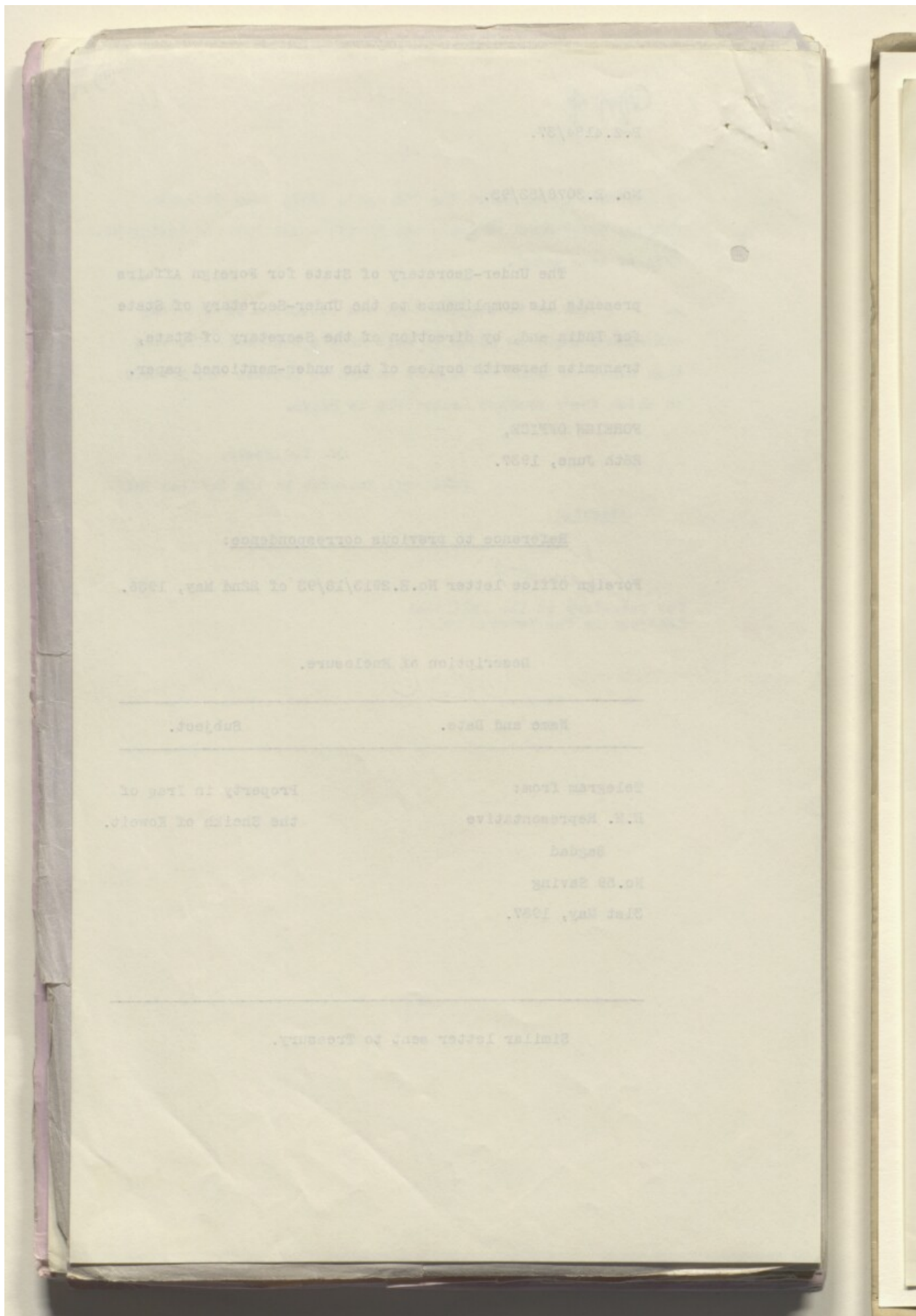
Foreign Office letter No.E.2913/18/93 of 22nd May, 1936.

Description of Enclosure.

<hr/>	
Name and Date.	Subject.
<hr/>	
Telegram from: H.M. Representative Bagdad No.59 Saving 31st May, 1937.	Property in Iraq of the Sheikh of Koweit.

Similar letter sent to Treasury.







P.Z.4184/37.

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) from Sir A. Clark Kerr (Bagdad)  
31st May, 1937.

D. 31st May, 1937.

R. 7th June, 1937.

No.59. SAVING.

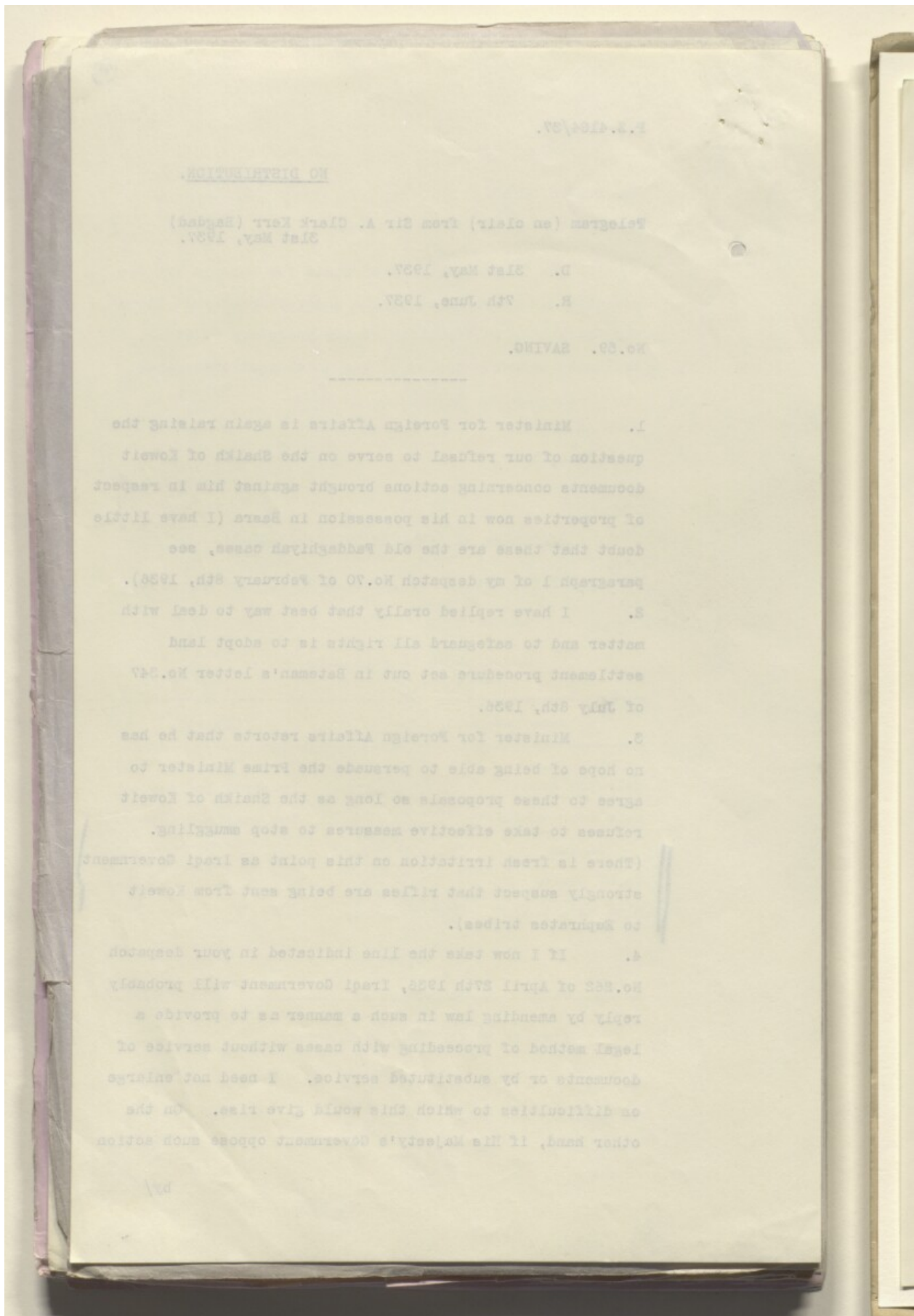
-----  
1. Minister for Foreign Affairs is again raising the question of our refusal to serve on the Shaikh of Koweit documents concerning actions brought against him in respect of properties now in his possession in Basra (I have little doubt that these are the old Faddaghiyah cases, see paragraph 1 of my despatch No.70 of February 8th, 1936).

2. I have replied orally that best way to deal with matter and to safeguard all rights is to adopt land settlement procedure set out in Bateman's letter No.347 of July 8th, 1936.

3. Minister for Foreign Affairs retorts that he has no hope of being able to persuade the Prime Minister to agree to these proposals so long as the Shaikh of Koweit refuses to take effective measures to stop smuggling. (There is fresh irritation on this point as Iraqi Government strongly suspect that rifles are being sent from Koweit to Euphrates tribes).

4. If I now take the line indicated in your despatch No.262 of April 27th 1936, Iraqi Government will probably reply by amending law in such a manner as to provide a legal method of proceeding with cases without service of documents or by substituted service. I need not enlarge on difficulties to which this would give rise. On the other hand, if His Majesty's Government oppose such action

by/



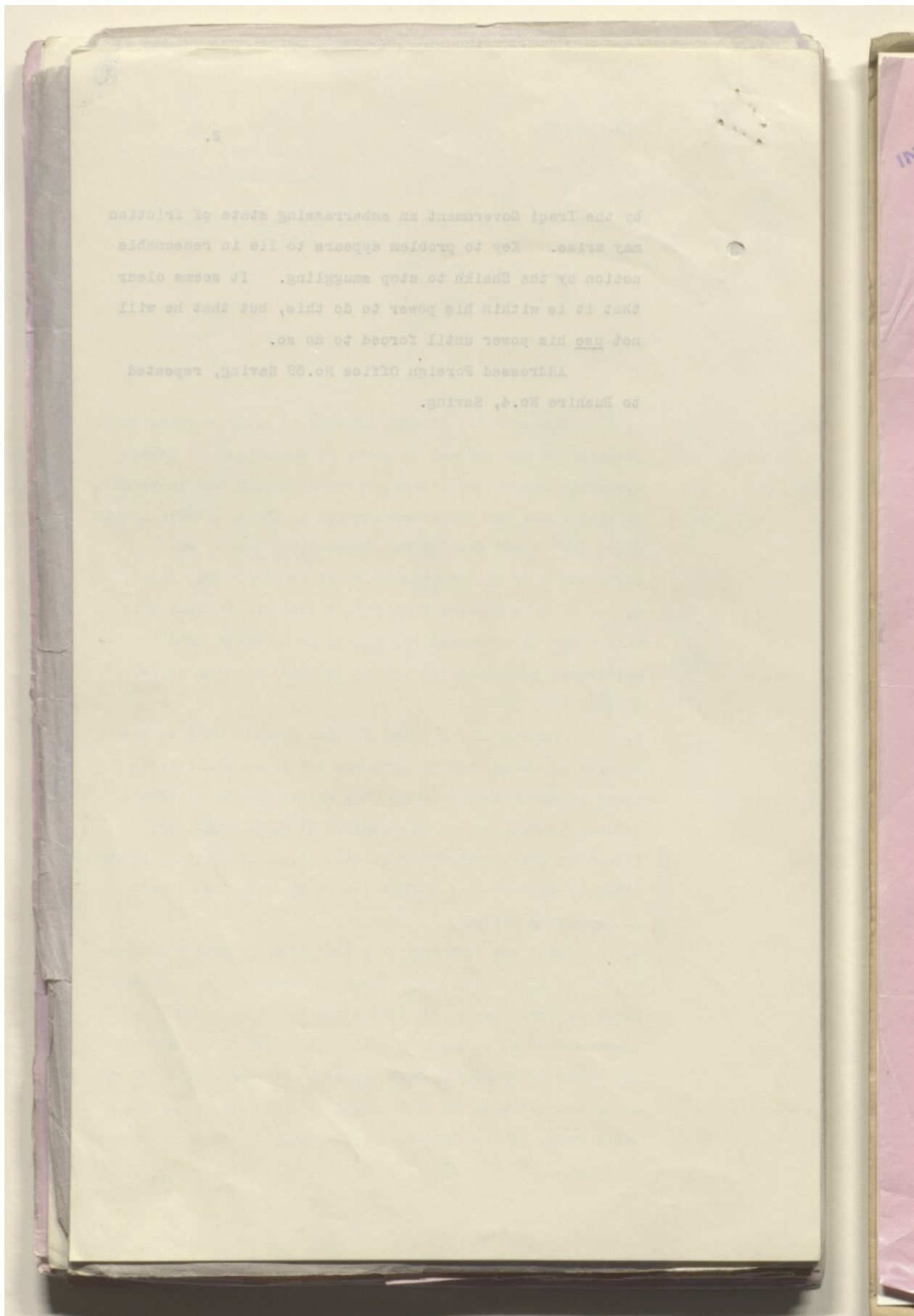
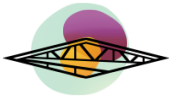


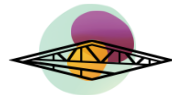


2.

by the Iraqi Government an embarrassing state of friction may arise. Key to problem appears to lie in reasonable action by the Shaikh to stop smuggling. It seems clear that it is within his power to do this, but that he will not use his power until forced to do so.

Addressed Foreign Office No.59 Saving, repeated to Bushire No.4, Saving.





INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C/65 of 1937.

2648

21 APR 1937

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. His Excellency Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, KCMG.,  
His Majesty's Ambassador,  
Bagdad.
2. J.C. Walton Esquire, CB., MC.,  
The India Office, London.
3. Captain G.S. de Gaury, MC.,  
Political Agent, Kuwait,

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, Bahrain.

Dated.....11th April, 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence:

To(1). Political Resident's letter No.C/50 of 7th April 1937.  
To(2)&(3). " " Printed " No.C/51 of 7th April 1937.

Description of Enclosure.

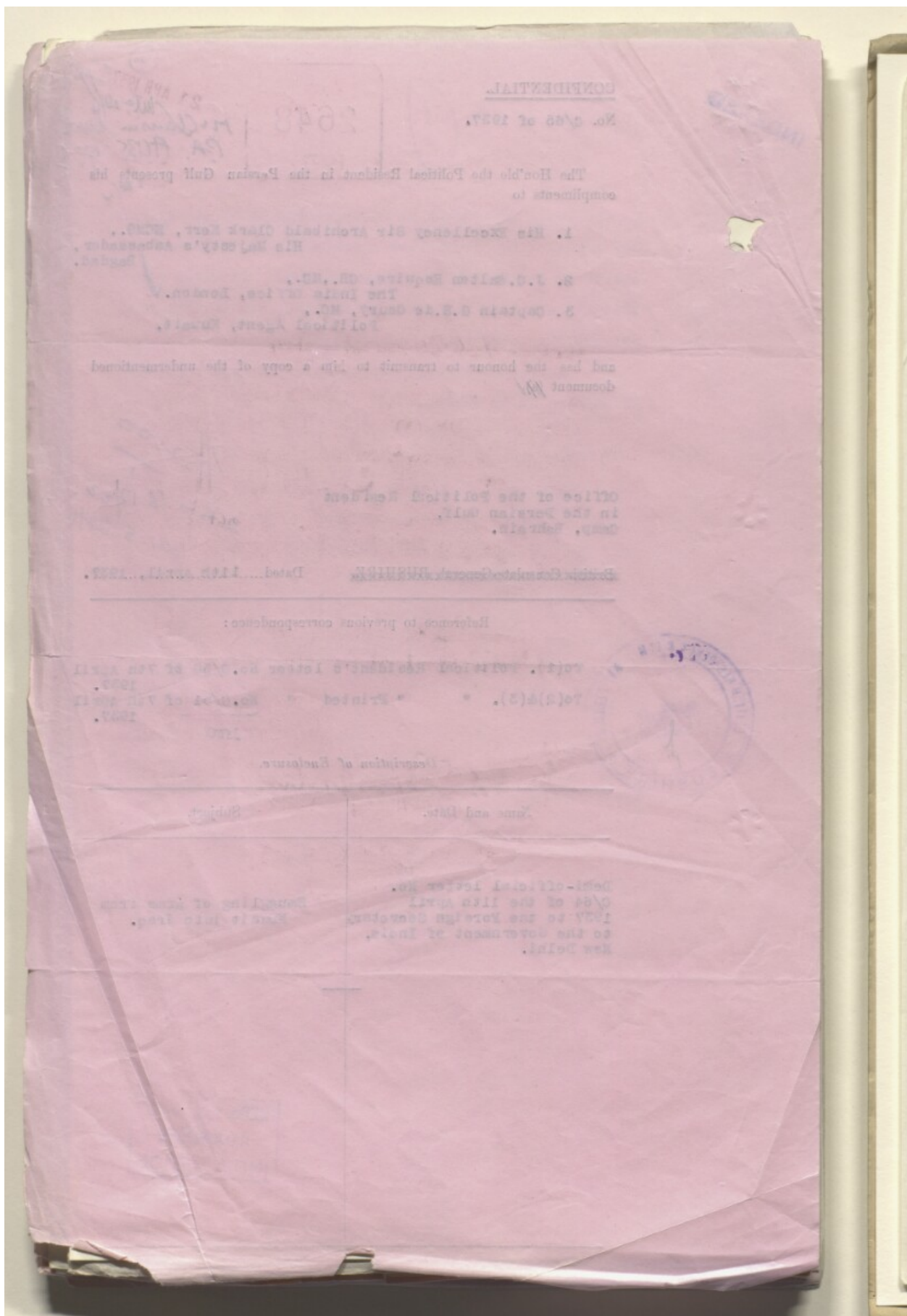
Name and Date.	Subject.
Demi-official letter No. C/64 of the 11th April 1937 to the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.	Smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

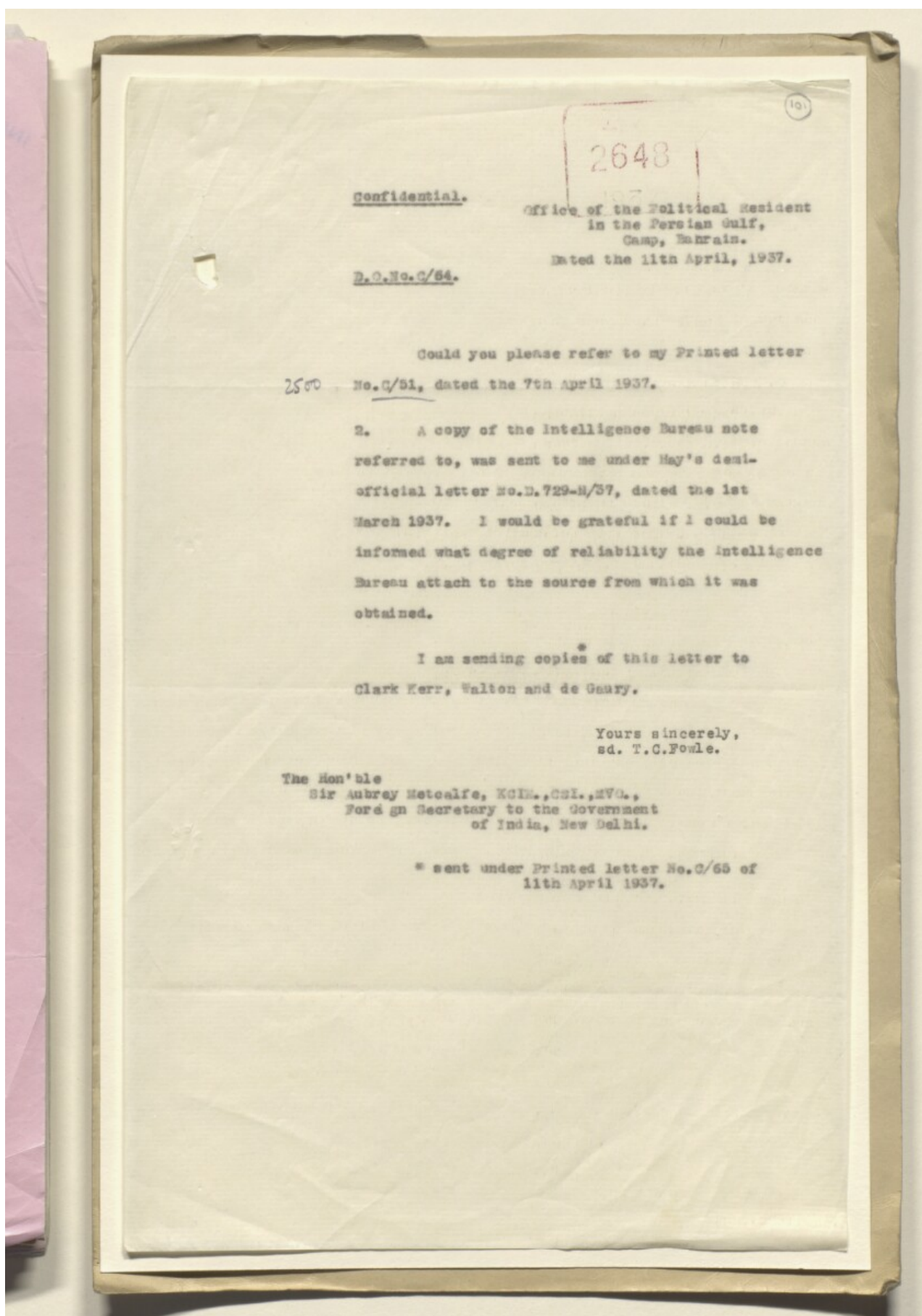
RECD. POL. OFF.  
20 APR 1937  
INDIA OFFICE





Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Kuwait [Kuwait] into Iraq'  
[100v] (200/237)





Confidential.

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, Bahrain.

Dated the 11th April, 1937.

D.C.No.C/64.

2500 Could you please refer to my Printed letter  
No.C/51, dated the 7th April 1937.

2. A copy of the Intelligence Bureau note referred to, was sent to me under May's semi-official letter No.D.729-M/37, dated the 1st March 1937. I would be grateful if I could be informed what degree of reliability the Intelligence Bureau attach to the source from which it was obtained.

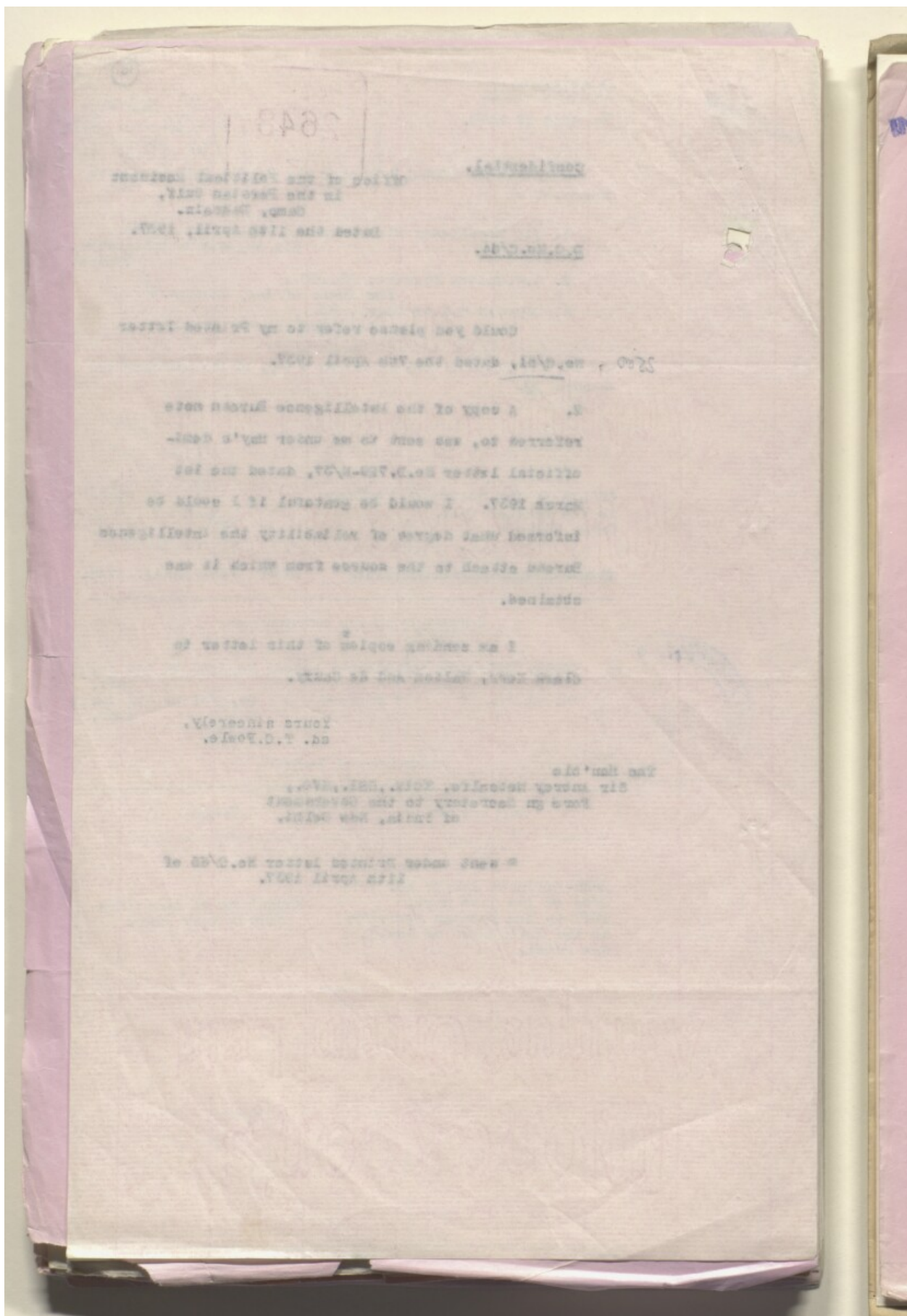
I am sending copies<sup>\*</sup> of this letter to  
Clark Kerr, Walton and de Gaury.

Yours sincerely,  
sd. T.C.Fowle.

The Hon'ble  
Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCMG, CML, MVO.,  
Foreign Secretary to the Government  
of India, New Delhi.

\* sent under Printed letter No.C/65 of  
11th April 1937.









**INDEXED**

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

No. C/51 of 1937.

2500  
1937

19 APR 1937

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. The Hon'ble Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCIE., CSI., MVO.,  
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,  
New Delhi.
2. J.C. Walton Esquire, CB., MC.,  
The India Office, London.
3. Captain G.S. de Gaury, MC.,  
Political Agent, Kuwait.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
s.s. Bamora, at Bandar Shahpur.

16765-14/22

British Consulate General BUSHIRE  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dated... 7th April, 1937...

Reference to previous correspondence:

**DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE.**

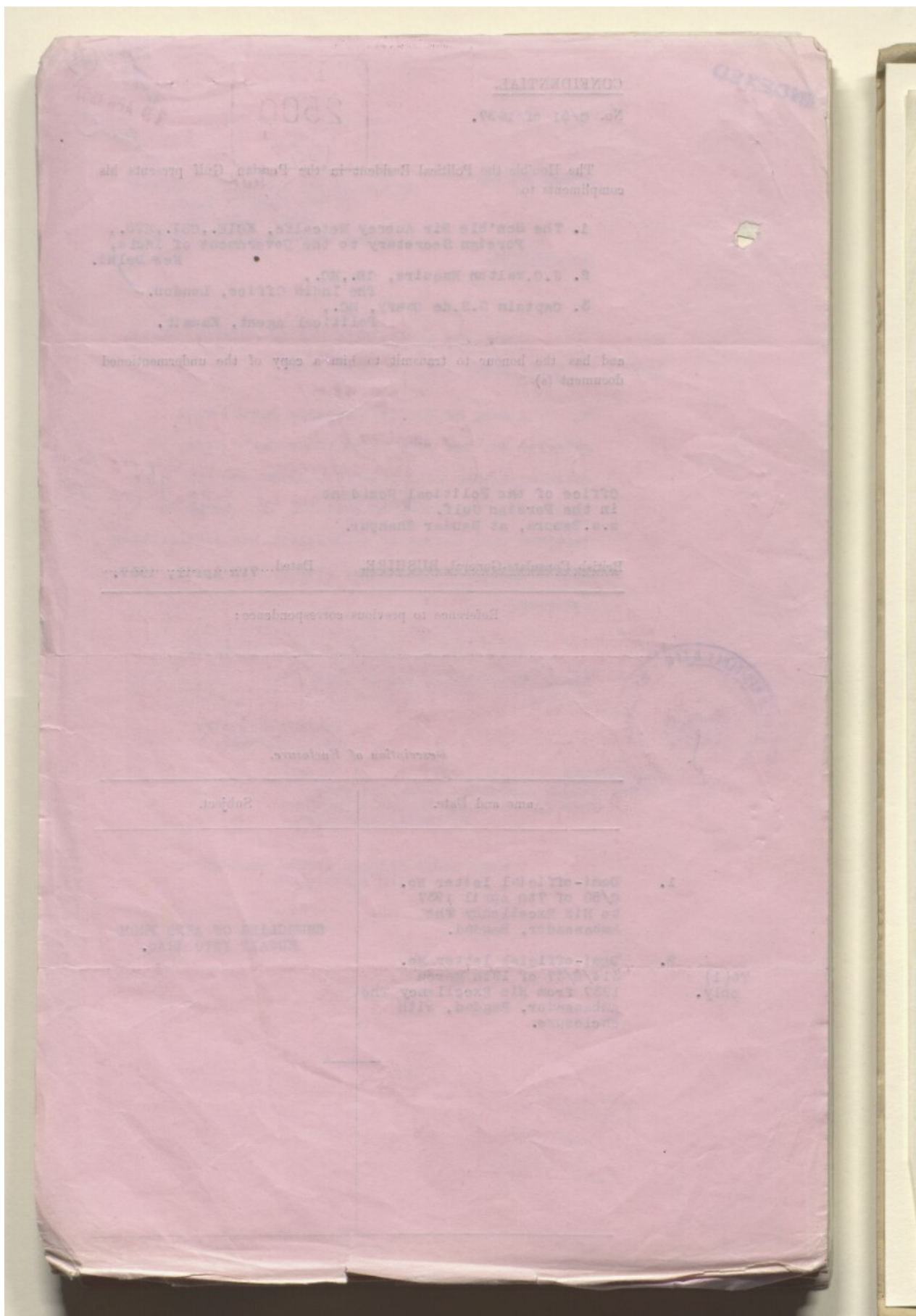
Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Demi-official letter No. C/50 of 7th April 1937 to His Excellency The Ambassador, Bagdad.	SMUGGLING OF ARMS FROM KUWAIT INTO IRAQ.
2. Demi-official letter No. 314/2/37 of 19th March 1937 from His Excellency The Ambassador, Bagdad, with enclosure.	

To (1) only.

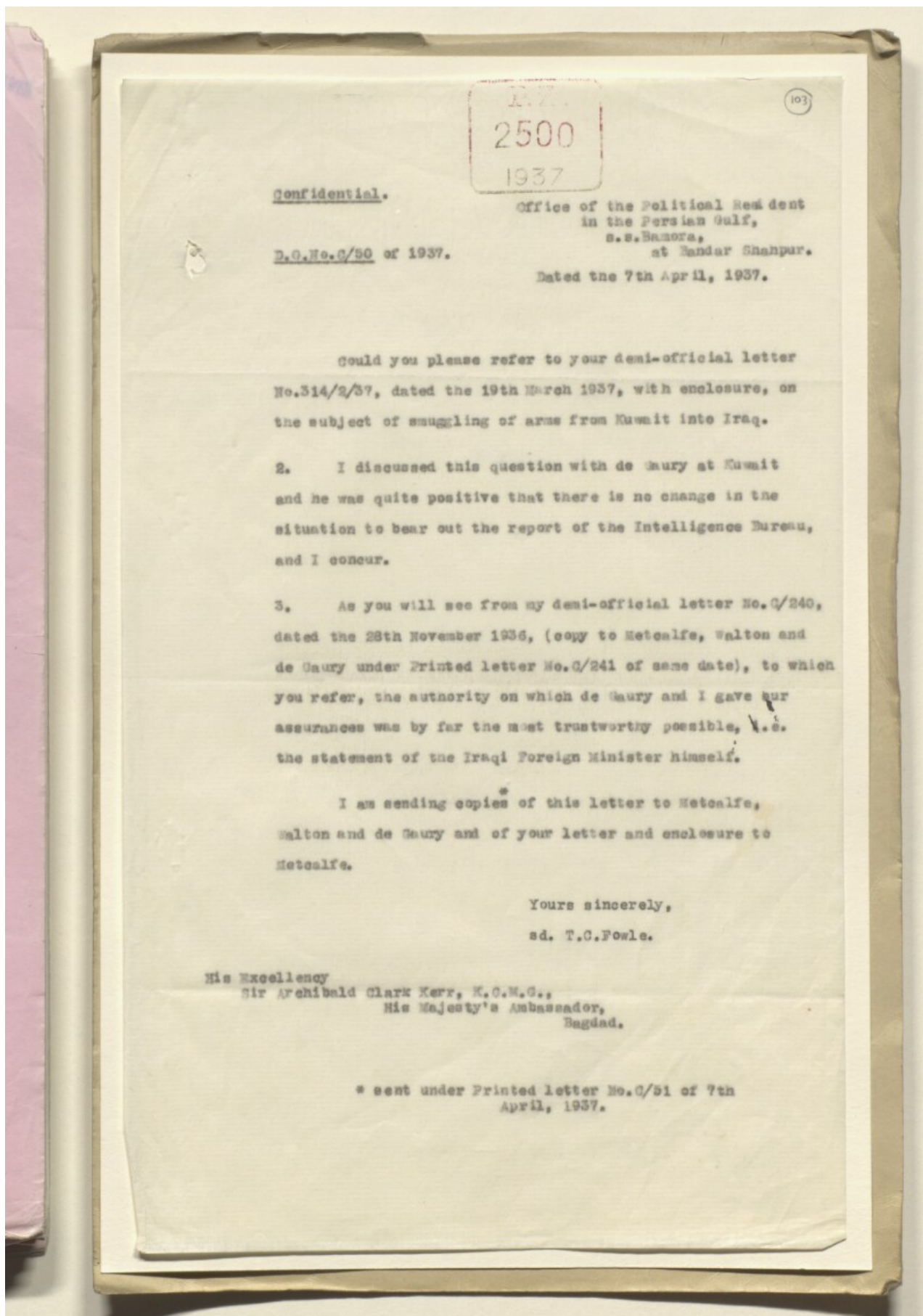
REDA. POL. OFF.  
15 APR 1937  
INDIA OFFICE



Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Koweit [Kuwait] into Iraq'  
[102v] (204/237)







Confidential.

D.O.No. 9/50 of 1937.

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
S.S. Bamora,  
at Bandar Shahpur.

Dated the 7th April, 1937.

Could you please refer to your demi-official letter  
No. 314/2/37, dated the 19th March 1937, with enclosure, on  
the subject of smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

2. I discussed this question with de Gaury at Kuwait  
and he was quite positive that there is no change in the  
situation to bear out the report of the Intelligence Bureau,  
and I concur.

3. As you will see from my demi-official letter No. 9/240,  
dated the 28th November 1936, (copy to Metcalfe, Walton and  
de Gaury under Printed letter No. 9/241 of same date), to which  
you refer, the authority on which de Gaury and I gave our  
assurances was by far the most trustworthy possible, *viz.*  
the statement of the Iraqi Foreign Minister himself.

I am sending copies of this letter to Metcalfe,  
Walton and de Gaury and of your letter and enclosure to  
Metcalfe.

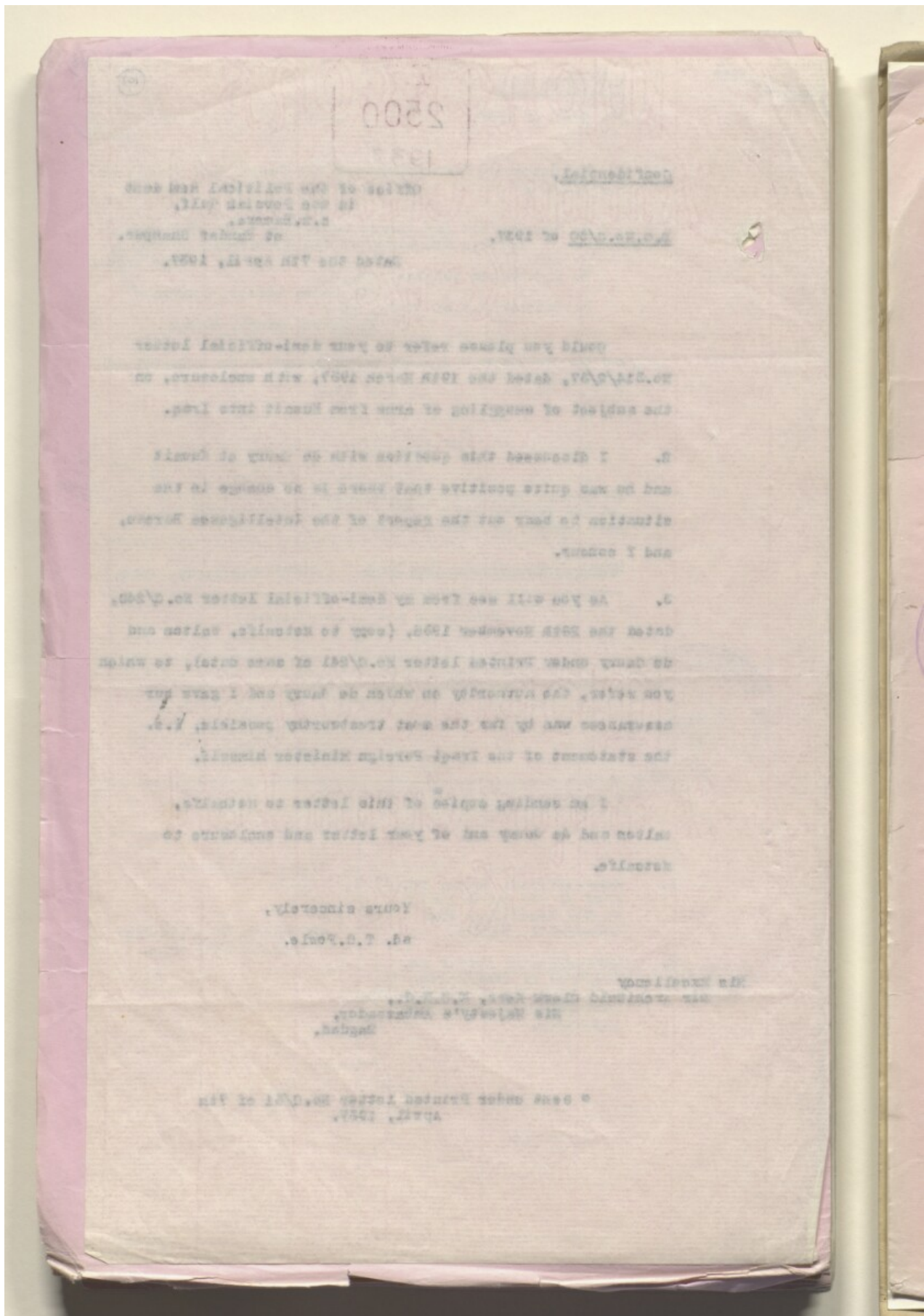
Yours sincerely,

sd. T.C. Fowle.

His Excellency  
Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, K.C.M.G.,  
His Majesty's Ambassador,  
Bagdad.

\* sent under Printed letter No. 9/51 of 7th  
April, 1937.







CONFIDENTIAL. (3) P.Z. 765 70 104  
No. 38-S of 1937. 18 FEB 1937  
INDEXED

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. J.C. Walton, Esquire, C.B., M.C.,  
The India Office, London.
2. The Hon'ble Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCIE., CBI., MVO.,  
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,  
New Delhi.
3. Captain G.S. de Gaury, M.C.,  
Political Agent, Kuwait.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

8833/56. 526 me 29/1

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated 7th January 1937.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Residency Printed Letter No.C/241, dated the 28th November 1936.

8833/26.

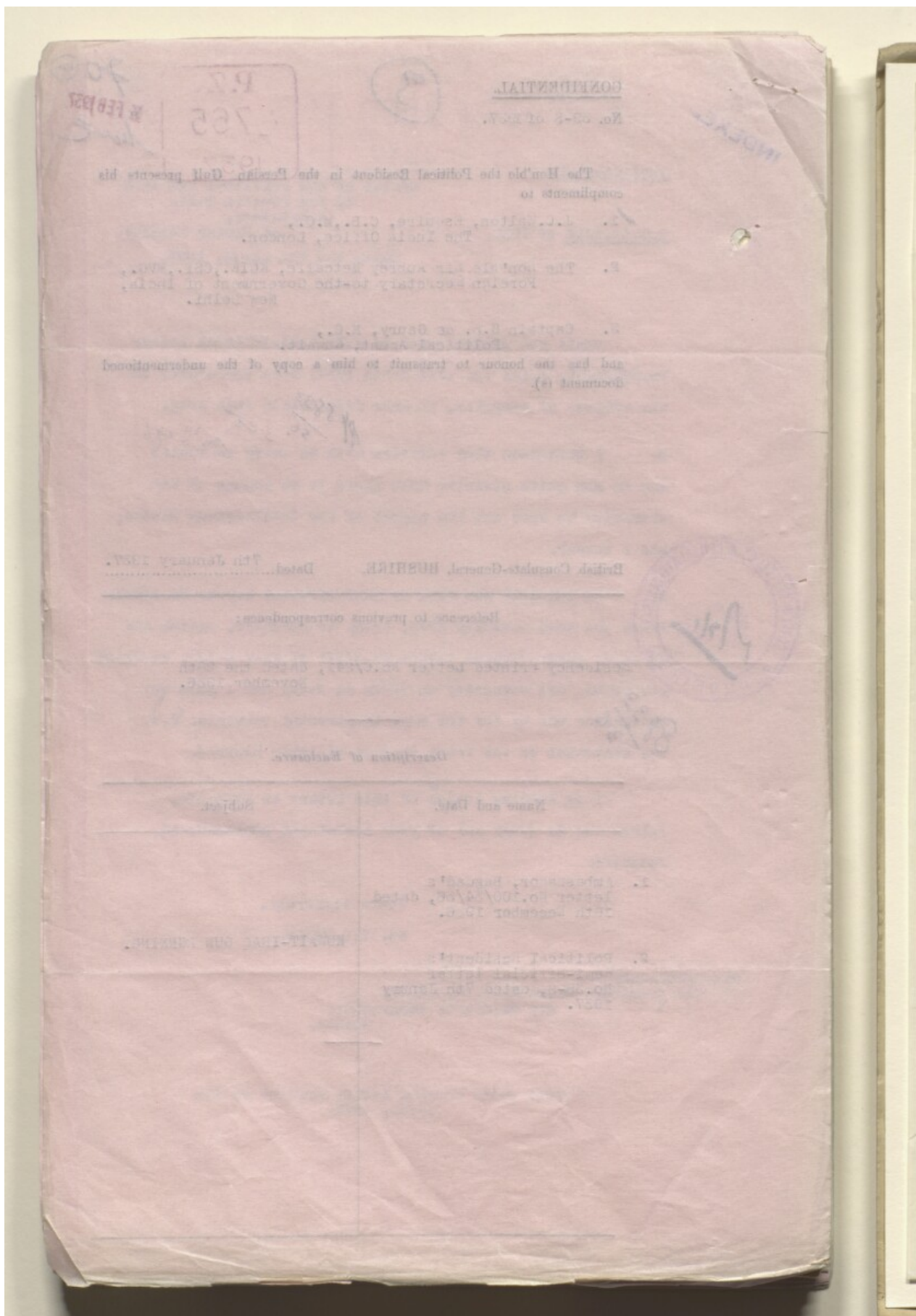
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Ambassador, Bagdad's letter No.100/24/36, dated 16th December 1936.	
2. Political Resident's semi-official letter No.38-S, dated 7th January 1937.	KUWAIT-IRAQ GUN RUNNING.





Coll 7/42 'Persian Gulf: arms smuggling from Koweit [Kuwait] into Iraq'  
[104v] (208/237)





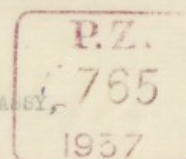


(100/34/26).

BRITISH EMBASSY,

BAGDAD.

16th December, 1936.



My dear Fowle,

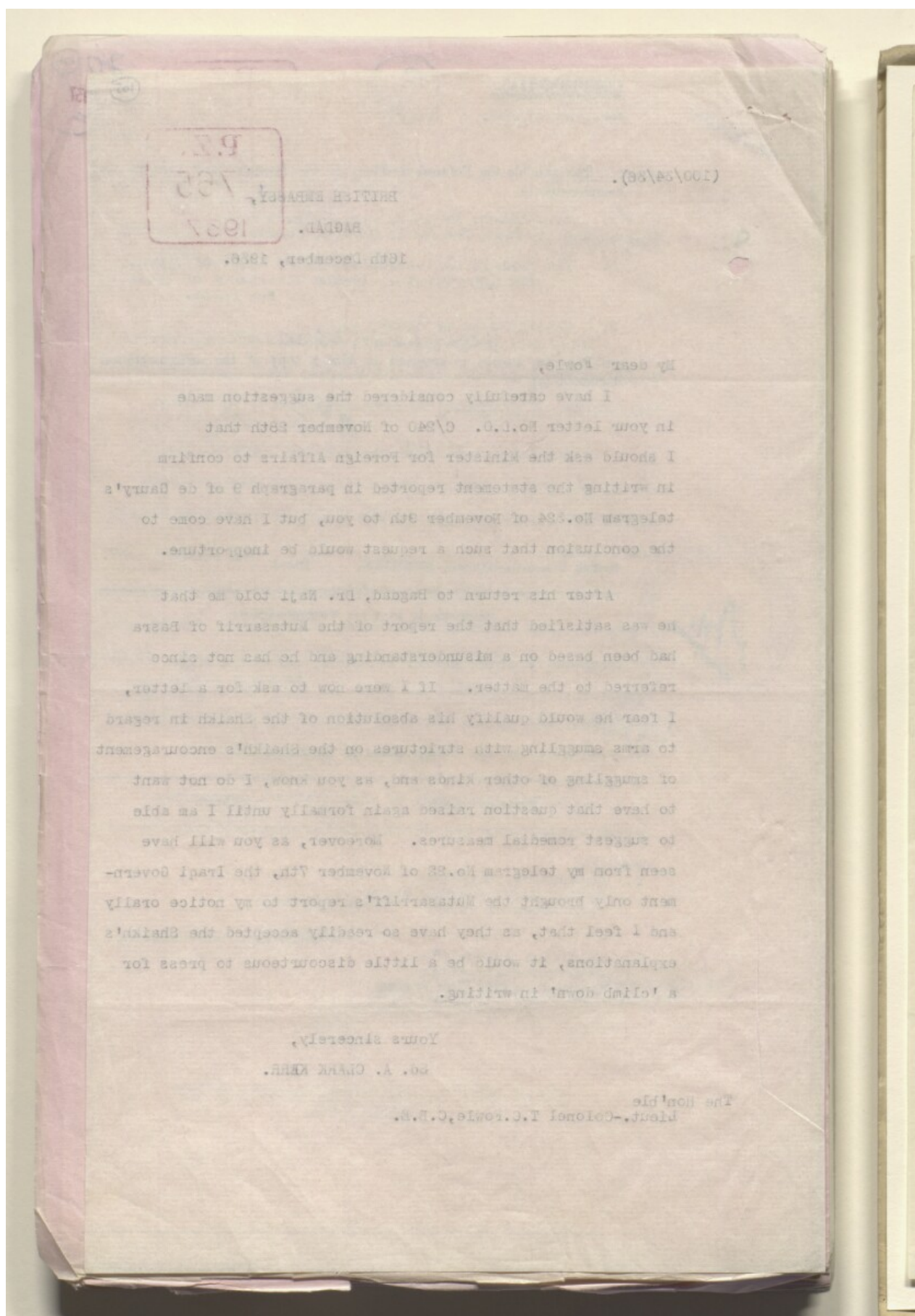
I have carefully considered the suggestion made in your letter No.D.O. C/240 of November 28th that I should ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs to confirm in writing the statement reported in paragraph 9 of de Gaury's telegram No.324 of November 9th to you, but I have come to the conclusion that such a request would be inopportune.

After his return to Bagdad, Dr. Naji told me that he was satisfied that the report of the Mutasarrif of Basra had been based on a misunderstanding and he has not since referred to the matter. If I were now to ask for a letter, I fear he would qualify his absolution of the Shaikh in regard to arms smuggling with strictures on the Shaikh's encouragement of smuggling of other kinds and, as you know, I do not want to have that question raised again formally until I am able to suggest remedial measures. Moreover, as you will have seen from my telegram No.22 of November 7th, the Iraqi Government only brought the Mutasarriff's report to my notice orally and I feel that, as they have so readily accepted the Shaikh's explanations, it would be a little discourteous to press for a 'climb down' in writing.

Yours sincerely,

Ed. A. CLARK KERR.

The Hon'ble  
Lieut.-Colonel T.C.Fowle, C.B.E.







Confidential.

D.O.No.38-S of 1937.

The Residency,  
Bushire, the 7th January, 1937.

Could you please refer to your letter No.100/24/  
36, dated the 16th December 1936, on the subject of  
Kuwait-Iraq gun-running.

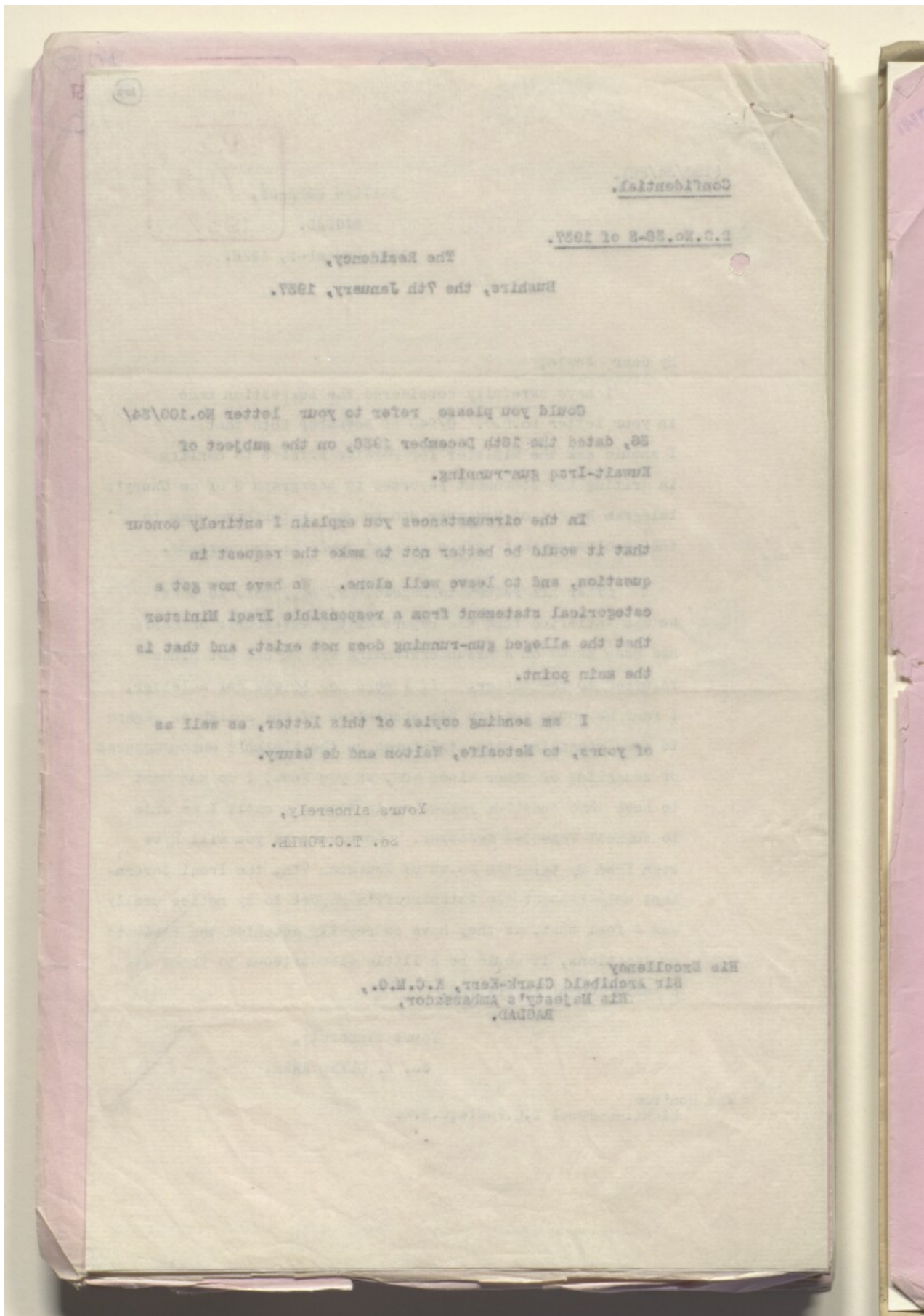
In the circumstances you explain I entirely concur  
that it would be better not to make the request in  
question, and to leave well alone. We have now got a  
categorical statement from a responsible Iraqi Minister  
that the alleged gun-running does not exist, and that is  
the main point.

I am sending copies of this letter, as well as  
of yours, to Metcalfe, Walton and de Gaury.

Yours sincerely,  
Sd. T.C.FOWLE.

His Excellency  
Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr, K.C.M.G.,  
His Majesty's Ambassador,  
BAGDAD.







INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C/241 of 1936.

16 DEC 1936

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. The Hon'ble Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, KCIE., CSI., MVO.,  
Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,  
New Delhi.
2. J.C. Walton Esquire, CB., MC.,  
The India Office, London.
3. Captain G.S. de Gaury, MC.,  
Political Agent, Kuwait.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document

8833  
1936

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, KUWAIT.

British Consulate-General BUSHIRE  
Dated.. 28th November 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:

8744  
Political Resident's Printed letter No. C/214 of  
17th November 1936.

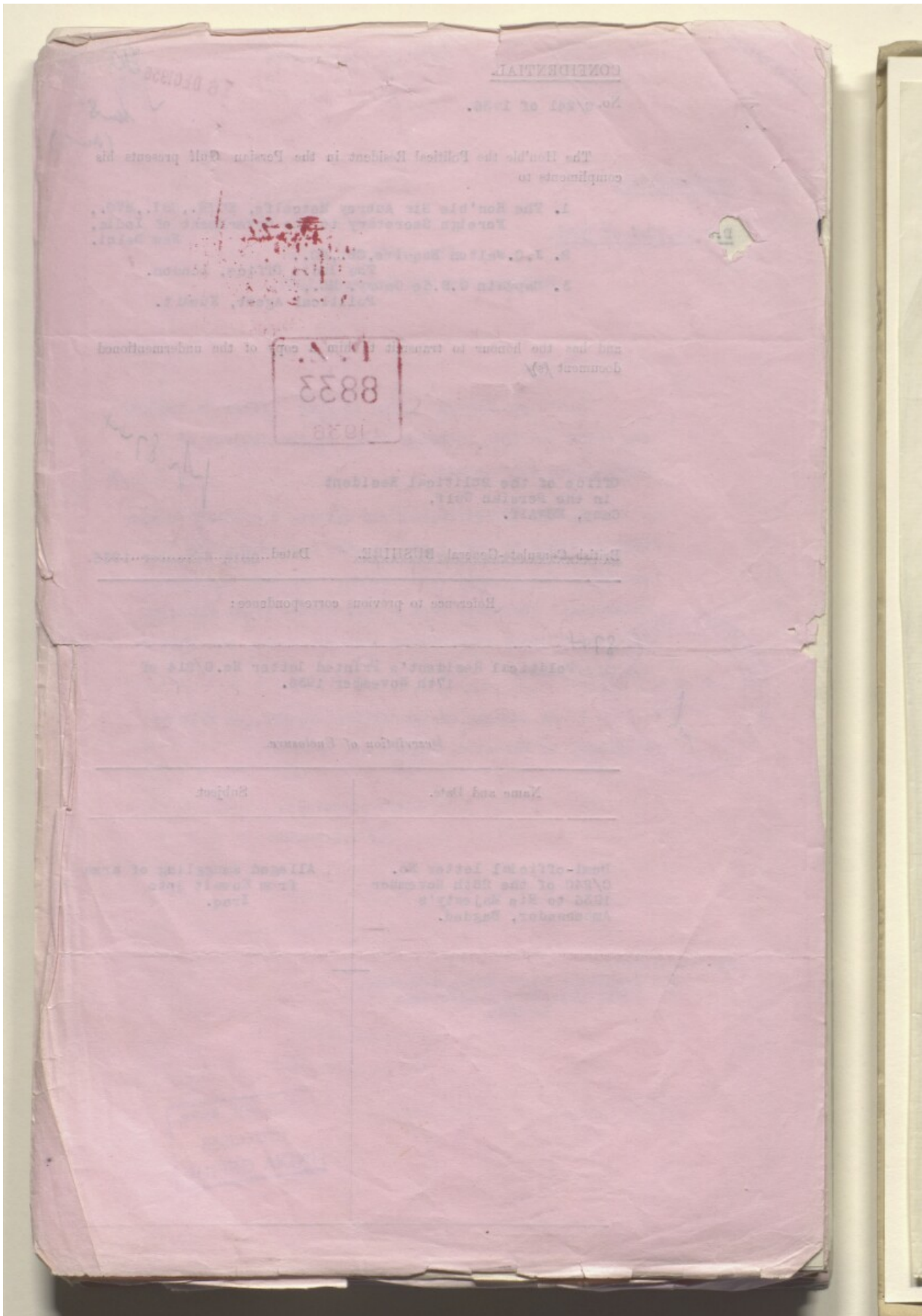
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Demi-official letter No. C/240 of the 28th November 1936 to His Majesty's Ambassador, Bagdad.	Alleged smuggling of arms from Kuwait into Iraq.

8744

RECD. P.S.L. OFF.  
12 DEC 1936  
INDIA OFFICE









Confidential.

Office of the Political Resident  
in the Persian Gulf,  
Camp, Kuwait.

Dated the 28th November, 1936.

B.O.No. 6/240 of 1936.



Could you please refer to paragraph 9 of de Gaury's  
telegram No. 324 dated the 9th November 1936.

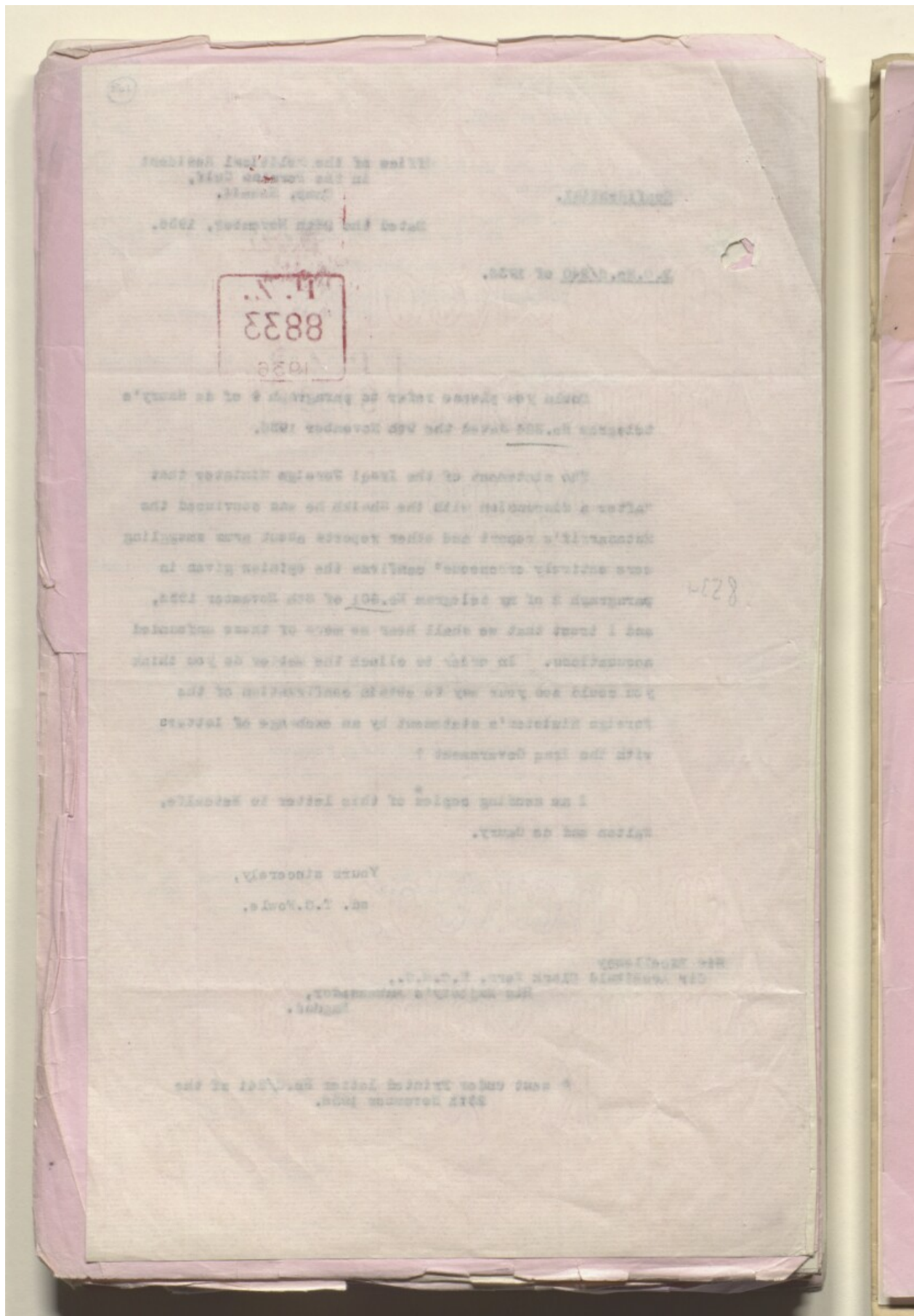
8534  
The statement of the Iraqi Foreign Minister that  
"after a discussion with the Shaikh he was convinced the  
Mutassarif's report and other reports about arms smuggling  
were entirely erroneous" confirms the opinion given in  
paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 801 of 8th November 1936,  
and I trust that we shall hear no more of these unfounded  
accusations. In order to clinch the matter do you think  
you could see your way to obtain confirmation of the  
Foreign Minister's statement by an exchange of letters  
with the Iraq Government?

I am sending copies<sup>\*</sup> of this letter to Metcalfe,  
Walton and de Gaury.

Yours sincerely,  
Ed. T.C. Fowle.

His Excellency  
Sir Archibald Clerk Kerr, K.C.M.G.,  
His Majesty's Ambassador,  
Bagdad.

\* sent under Printed letter No. 6/241 of the  
28th November 1936.







INDEXED

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. C/214 of 1936.

The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.
2. The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

Office of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Camp, BAHRAIN.

Dated... 17th November 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Residency Printed letter No. 830-S of 9th November 1936.

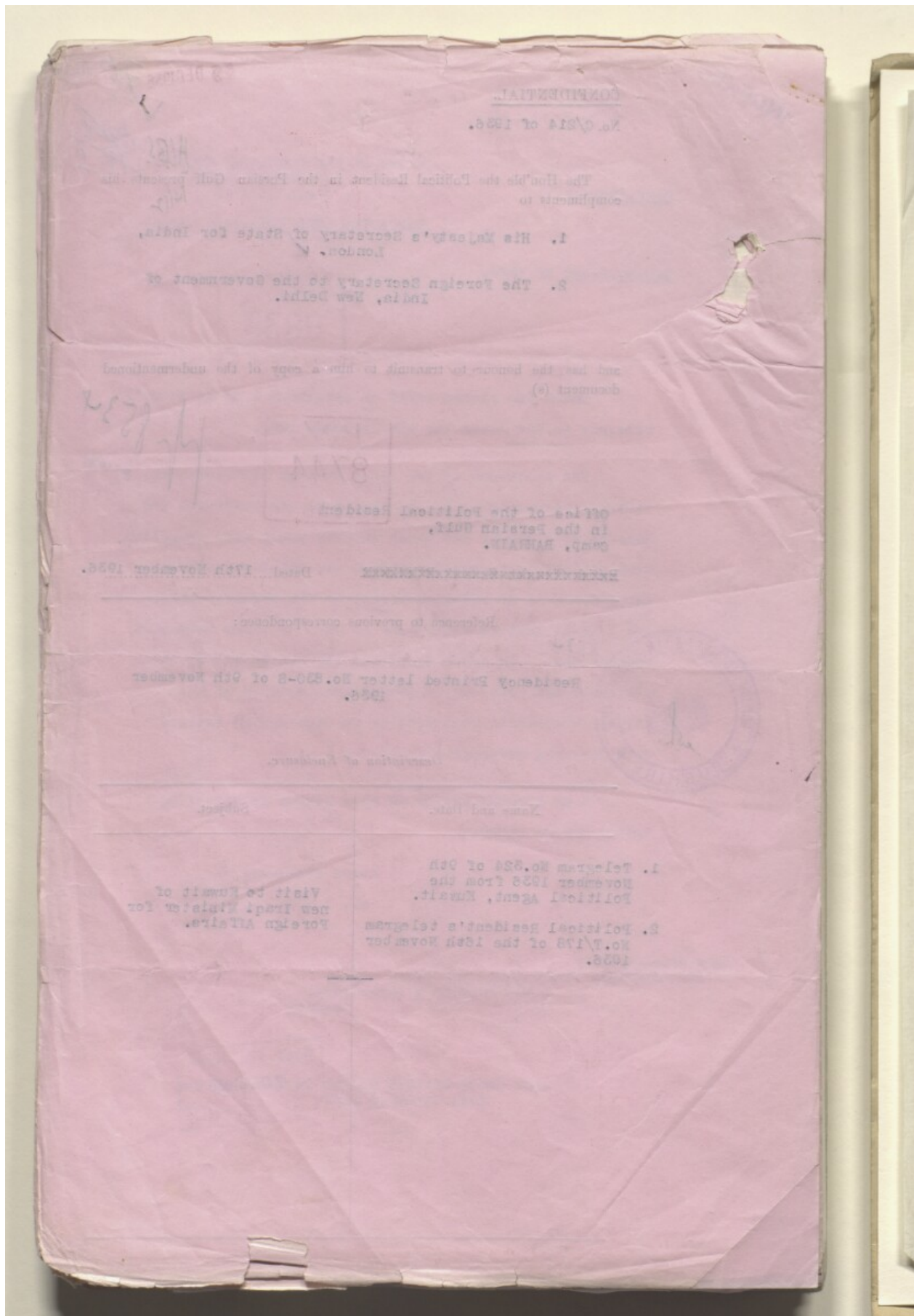
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Telegram No. 324 of 9th November 1936 from the Political Agent, Kuwait.	Visit to Kuwait of new Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs.
2. Political Resident's telegram No. T/178 of the 16th November 1936.	

BRITISH RESIDENCY & L.N. AL-BUHAYRA  
BUSHIRE

REC'D. POL. DEPT.  
7 DEC 1936  
INDIA OFFICE







Telegram XX.

From Political Agent, Kuwait.

To Political Resident, Bushire.

Repeated H.M.'s Ambassador, Baghdad.

No. 324.

Dated (Drafted and encyphered on 9th November and signalled on) 10th November 1936.

11.7.  
8744  
1936

Your telegram No.801 arrived after my conversation with Minister last night.

1. First and in general His Excellency went over all the old ground, the loss to Iraq revenues, the costly preventive service etc. ending up, but rather weakly I thought, on the "By Jingo" note. To all this I made little or no comment.

2. He then while admitting a great decrease in smuggling mentioned the increase in gun running.

3. I pointed out that having looked at my papers I had found this had been said at intervals in the last year or so, notably by Yassin Pasha, but no evidence had been produced to substantiate what would by now be a flood of arms. If there were you would take a most serious view of it.

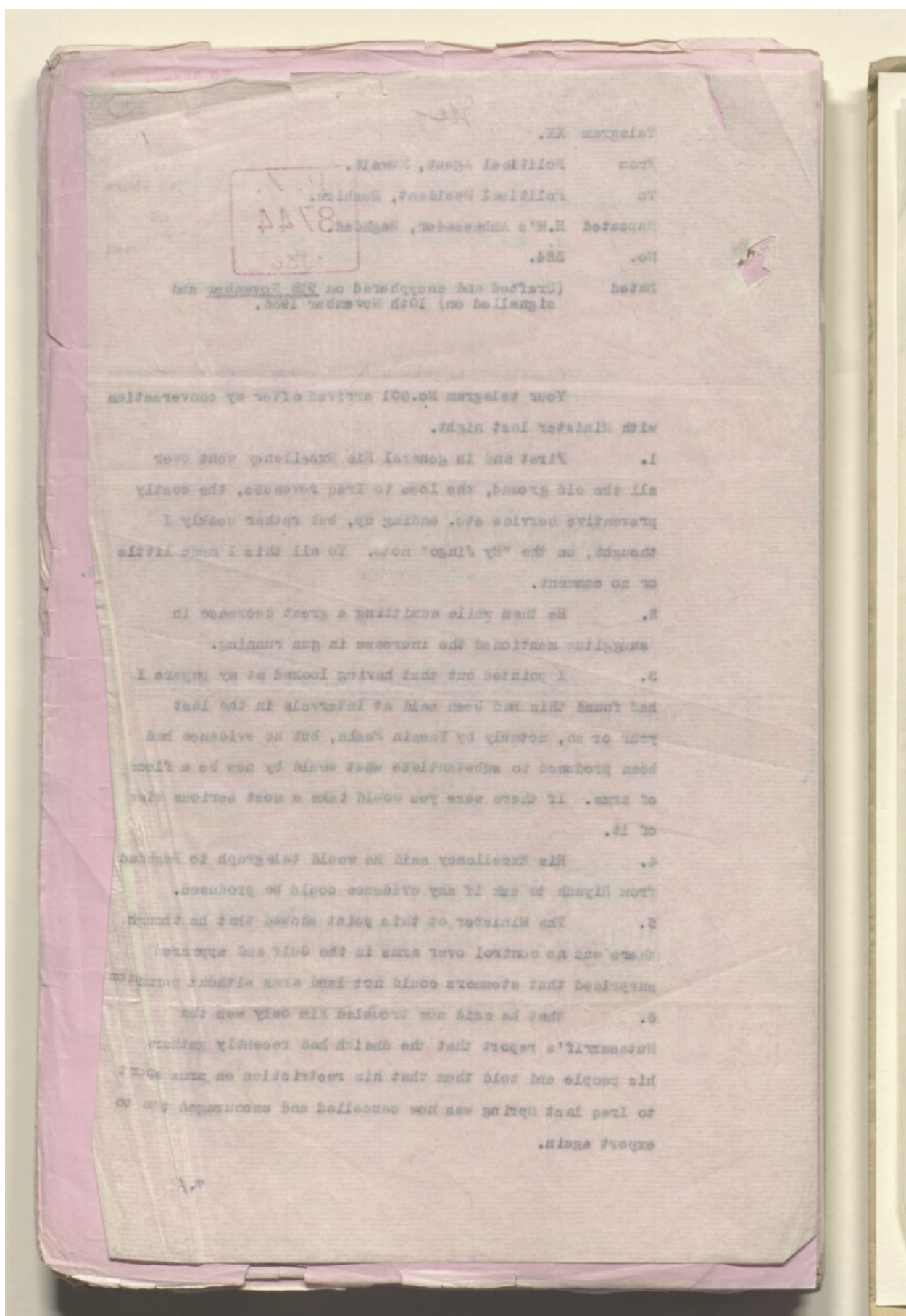
4. His Excellency said he would telegraph to Baghdad from Riyadh to ask if any evidence could be produced.

5. The Minister at this point showed that he thought there was no control over arms in the Gulf and appeared surprised that steamers could not land arms without permission.

6. What he said now troubled him only was the Mutasarrif's report that the Shaikh had recently gathered his people and told them that his restriction on arms export to Iraq last Spring was now cancelled and encouraged them to export again.

7./









- 2 -

7. His Excellency said he heard in Baghdad that there was likelihood of an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and perhaps a similar agreement might be made between Iraq and Kuwait. I replied non-committally.

8. He said that he hoped on his return to Kuwait to discuss whole matter again.

The above covers most points mentioned by Foreign Minister last night.

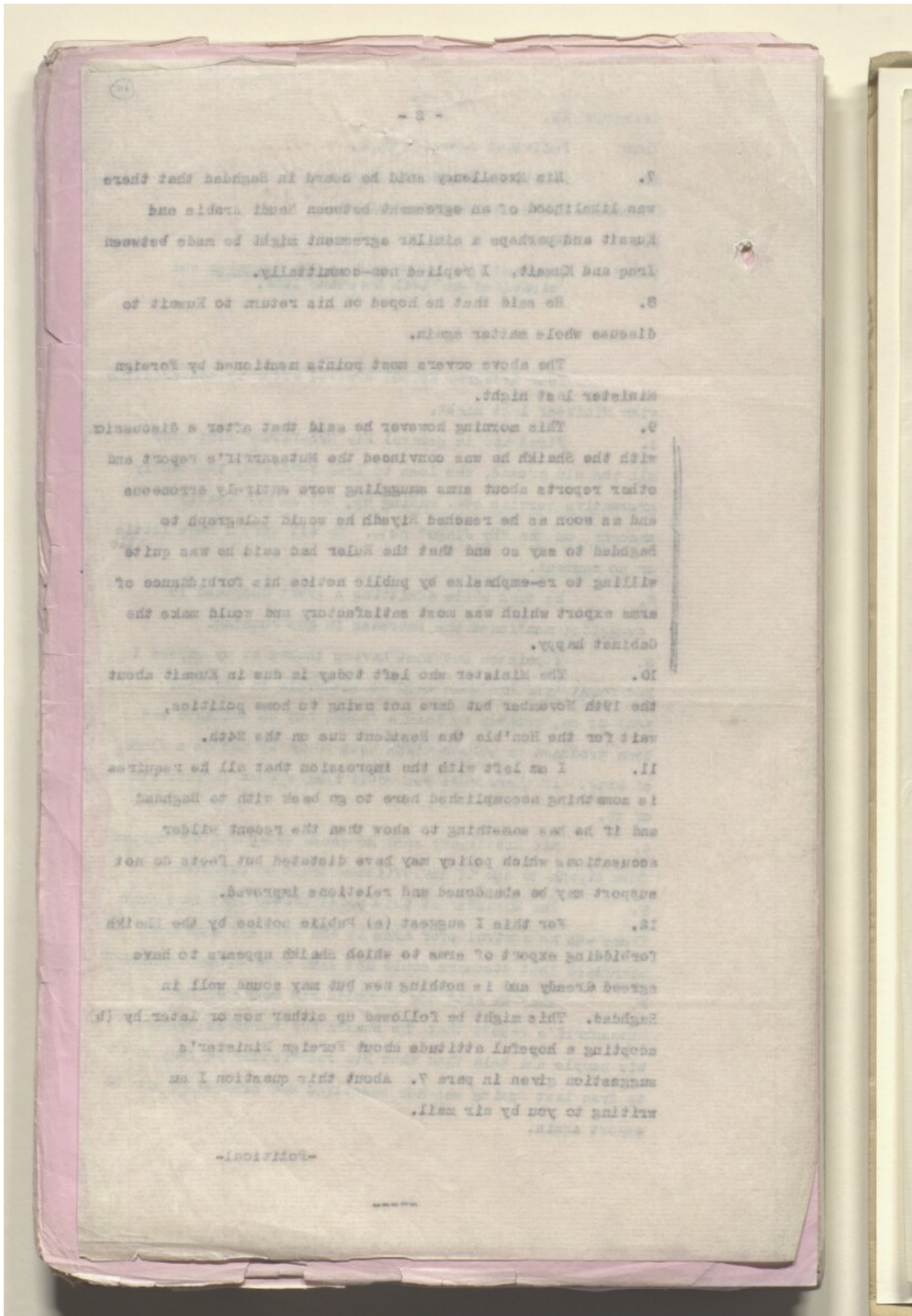
9. This morning however he said that after a discussion with the Shaikh he was convinced the Mutasarrif's report and other reports about arms smuggling were entirely erroneous and as soon as he reached Riyadh he would telegraph to Baghdad to say so and that the Ruler had said he was quite willing to re-emphasize by public notice his forbiddance of arms export which was most satisfactory and would make the Cabinet happy.

10. The Minister who left today is due in Kuwait about the 19th November but dare not owing to home politics, wait for the Hon'ble the Resident due on the 24th.

11. I am left with the impression that all he requires is something accomplished here to go back with to Baghdad and if he has something to show then the recent wilder accusations which policy may have dictated but facts do not support may be abandoned and relations improved.

12. For this I suggest (a) Public notice by the Shaikh forbidding export of arms to which Shaikh appears to have agreed already and is nothing new but may sound well in Baghdad. This might be followed up either now or later by (b) adopting a hopeful attitude about Foreign Minister's suggestion given in para 7. About this question I am writing to you by air mail.

-Political-







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Telegram    xx  
From        Political Resident, s.s. Barpeta.  
To           Political Agent, Kuwait.  
Repeated    H.M.'s Ambassador, Bagdad.  
No. T/178.  
Dated the 16th November, 1936.

IMPORTANT.

Your telegram 324 November 9th.

Paragraph 6 and paragraph 12. Any notice now issued by Shaikh should merely reaffirm previous notice issued in the Spring otherwise it will give the public impression that it is something new.

2.        With regard to your paragraphs 7 and 12 (b). What we have to do at present is to concentrate on getting the Kuwait-Saudi Agreement through.

- Resident.



42

Telegram  
From  
Political Resident, a.s. Barpeta.  
Political Agent, Kuwait.  
H.M.'s Ambassador, Baghdad.  
No. 1118.  
Dated the 13th November, 1936.

IMPORTANT.

Your telegram 324 November 9th.  
Paragraph 6 and paragraph 12. Any notice  
now issued by Sheikh should merely reiterate previous  
notice issued in the Spring otherwise it will give the  
public impression that it is something new.

2. With regard to your paragraphs 7 and 12 (b).  
What we have to do at present is to concentrate on getting  
the Kuwait-Saudi Agreement through.

- Resident.



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The Hon'ble the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf presents his compliments to

1. His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London. ✓
2. The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, New Delhi.

and has the honour to transmit to him a copy of the undermentioned document (s).

British Consulate-General, BUSHIRE. Dated 9th November, 1936.

Reference to previous correspondence:

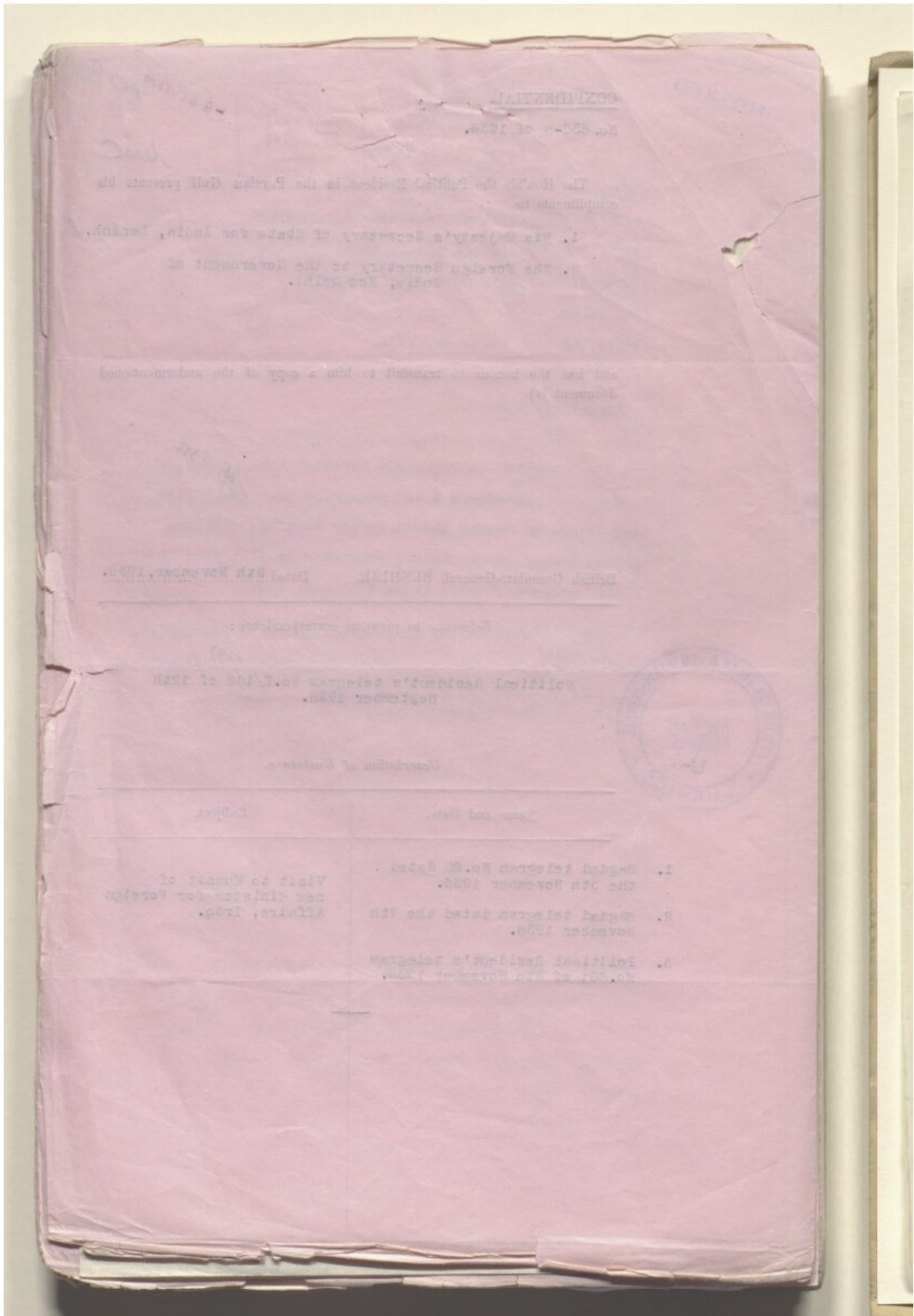
6597  
Political Resident's telegram No. T/162 of 12th September 1936.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1. Bagdad telegram No. 20 dated the 5th November 1936.	Visit to Kuwait of new Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iraq.
2. Bagdad telegram dated the 7th November 1936.	
3. Political Resident's telegram No. 801 of 8th November 1936.	

BRITISH LEGATION & CONSULATE-GENERAL  
BUSHIRE









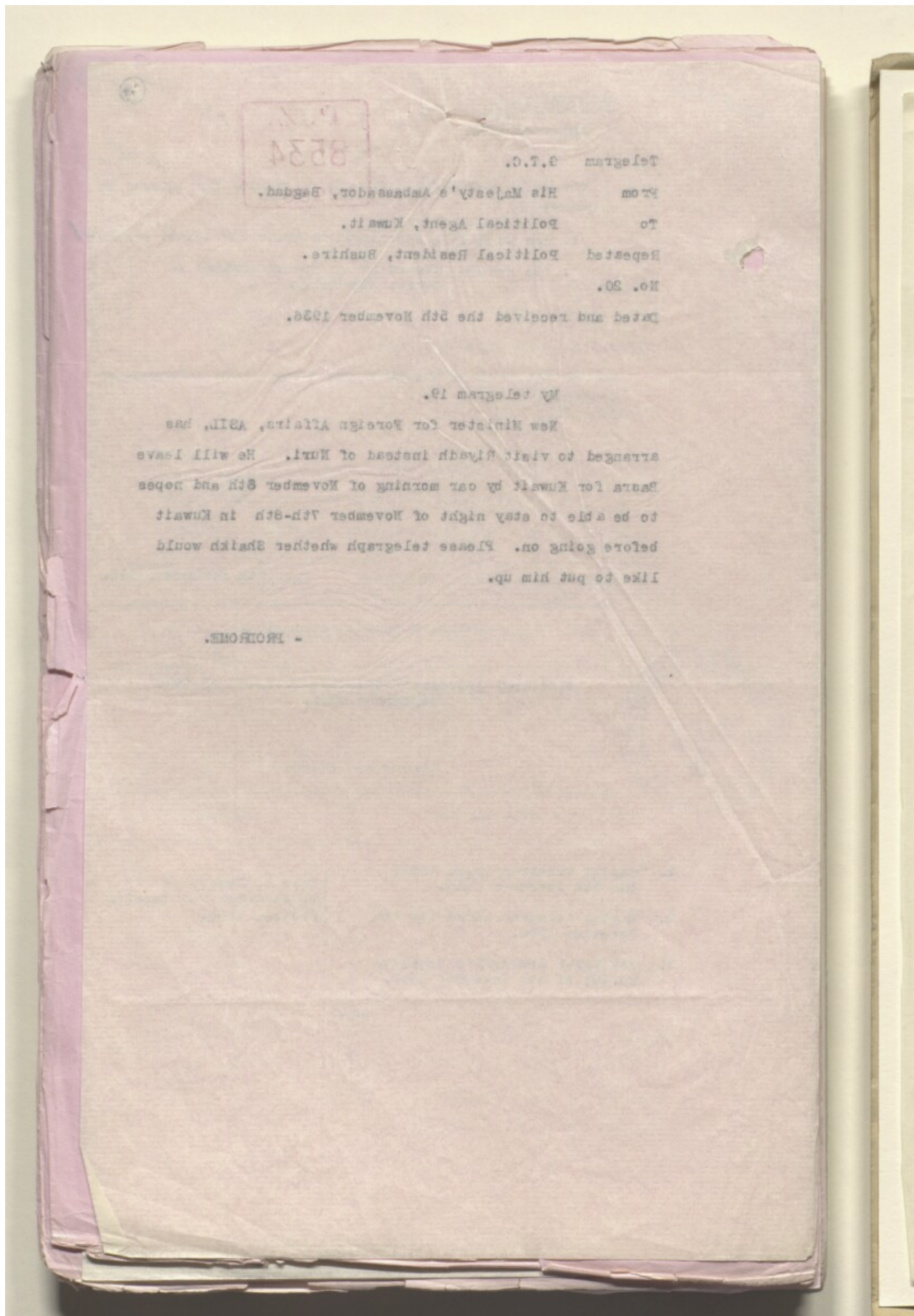
Telegram G.T.C.  
From His Majesty's Ambassador, Bagdad.  
To Political Agent, Kuwait.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. 20.  
Dated and received the 5th November 1936.

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My telegram 19.

New Minister for Foreign Affairs, ASIL, has arranged to visit Riyadh instead of Nuri. He will leave Basra for Kuwait by car morning of November 8th and hopes to be able to stay night of November 7th-8th in Kuwait before going on. Please telegraph whether Shaikh would like to put him up.

- PROIROME.







Telegram G.T.C.  
From H.M.'s Ambassador, Bagdad.  
To Political Agent, Kuwait.  
Repeated Political Resident, Bushire.  
No. nil.  
Dated 7th received 8th November 1936.

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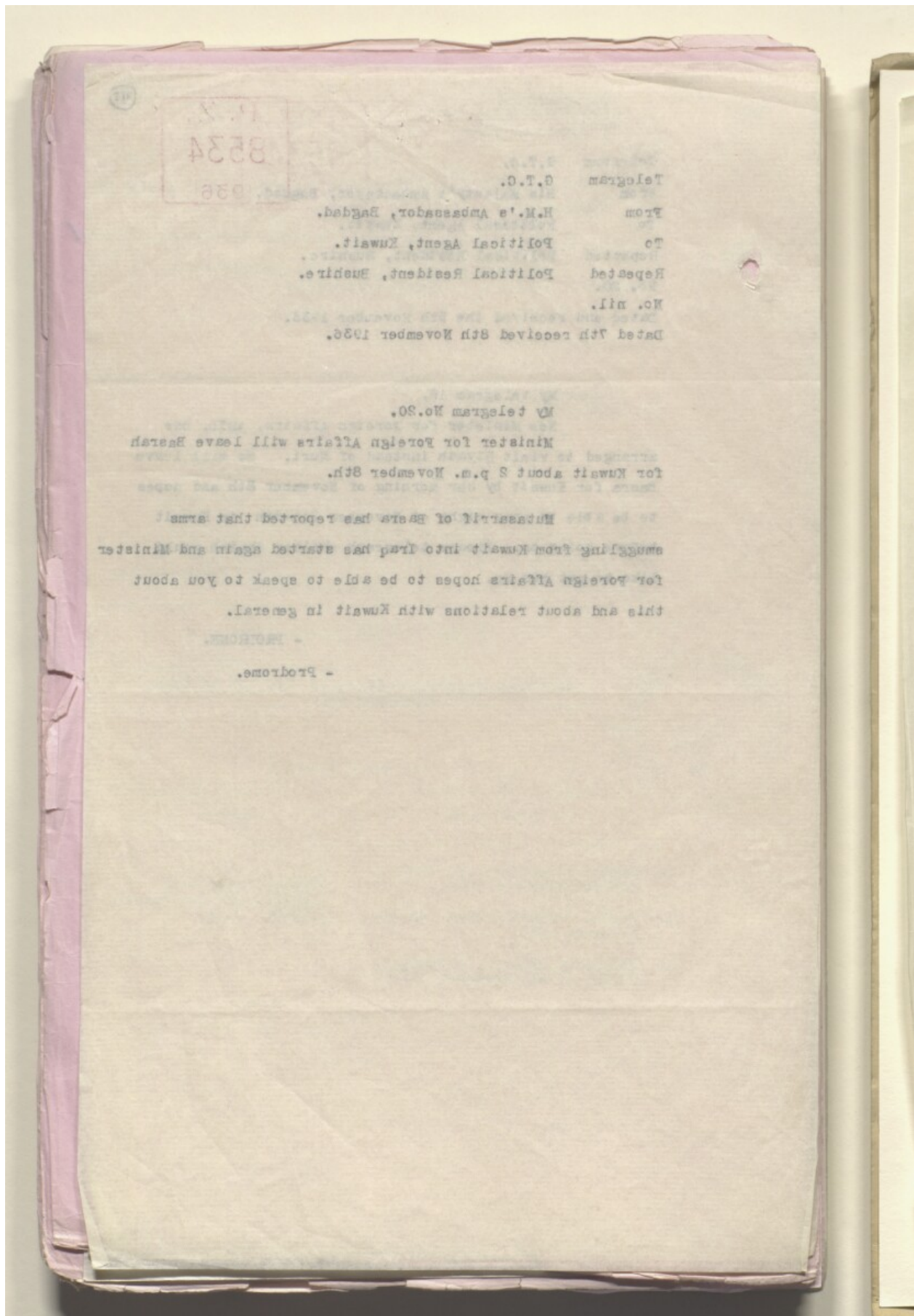
My telegram No.20.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will leave Basrah  
for Kuwait about 2 p.m. November 8th.

Mutasarrif of Basra has reported that arms  
smuggling from Kuwait into Iraq has started again and Minister  
for Foreign Affairs hopes to be able to speak to you about  
this and about relations with Kuwait in general.

- Prodrome.







Telegram Q.  
From Political Resident, Bushire.  
To H.M.'s Ambassador, Bagdad.  
Repeated Political Agent, Kuwait.  
No. 801.  
Dated the 8th November 1936.

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Important.

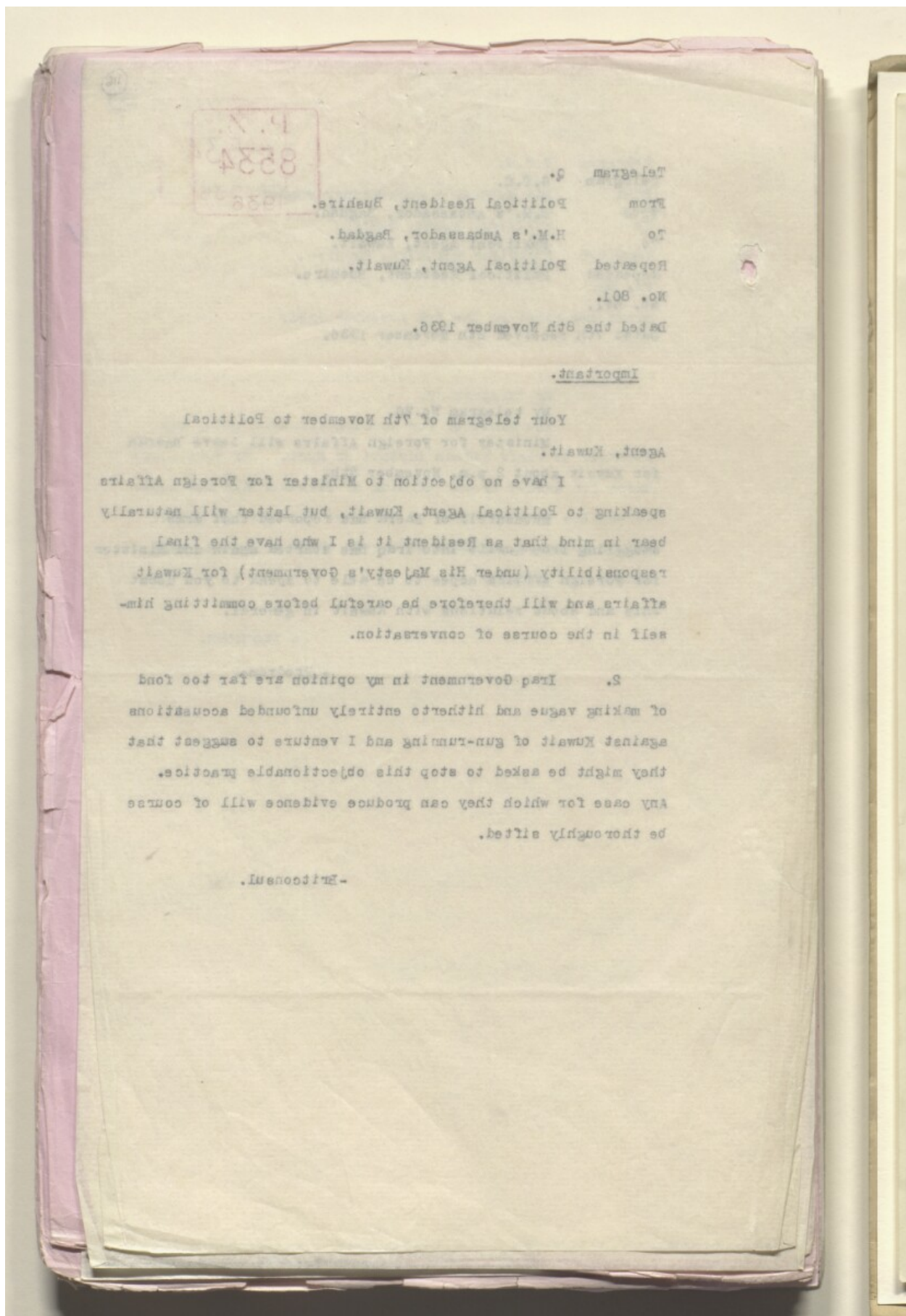
Your telegram of 7th November to Political Agent, Kuwait.

I have no objection to Minister for Foreign Affairs speaking to Political Agent, Kuwait, but latter will naturally bear in mind that as Resident it is I who have the final responsibility (under His Majesty's Government) for Kuwait affairs and will therefore be careful before committing himself in the course of conversation.

2. Iraq Government in my opinion are far too fond of making vague and hitherto entirely unfounded accusations against Kuwait of gun-running and I venture to suggest that they might be asked to stop this objectionable practice. Any case for which they can produce evidence will of course be thoroughly sifted.

-Britconsul.









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Extract from letter from British Embassy to  
G.W. Rendel Esq., C.M.G., dated 20th  
May, 1936 No.E.3233/38/91.

x x x x x

As regards the smuggling of arms, I said that I should be glad to receive details of any positive instances which had come to light. His Majesty's Government, who had themselves been obliged to do so much to stop the smuggling of arms from the Gulf into India, would certainly understand the importance of this matter and it might well be easier to devise effective measures to stop illicit traffic in arms than to prevent smuggling in tea, matches, sugar and so on.

The Prime Minister thanked me and said that he would give instructions for the facts to be clarified in a special report. He remarked, however, that as the arms were passed on through the tribes, it was very difficult to establish proof.

Incidentally, there have been of late one or two very foolish articles about Koweit in a piffling little Iraqi newspaper called "Al Karkh". I send you two specimens. I am bringing them to the notice of Yassin.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bushire and Koweit.

Yours ever,

(Intld) A.C.K.

